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TWENTY PRIZE MEDALS.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The Chambers on Monday began the last Session of the present legislative period. In the Chamber of Deputies the proceedings were confined to a speech by M. Floquet, the Radical Deputy, who has been elected President in the place of M. Brisson, the new Prime Minister. M. Floquet said that his place could be occupied only by an impartial arbiter singly concerned to protect the right of each Deputy and the liberty of all, to assure the dignity of their deliberations, and the sincerity of Representative Government.

In the Senate M. de Gavardie withdrew his interpellation as to the Tonquin policy of the new Cabinet, but complained bitterly of the intolerance of the Government.

The Chamber on Thursday passed by 308 to 57 the first reading of the Bill for ratifying the treaty concluded at Hué on the 6th of June, 1884, between the French Republic and the King of Annam. Although only now brought to the Chamber for ratification, this treaty has been practically in force for some time. M. de Freycinet, the Foreign Minister, said it might hereafter be amended after careful local investigation.

ITALY.—The Chamber on Wednesday discussed the foreign policy of the Government, chiefly in reference to the Expeditions to the Red Sea. Signor Mancini, the Foreign Minister, said the plans and hopes of the Government in respect to the Red Sea were very modest; but they were in accord with the action of England. The programme of the Government would not be enlarged without consulting the Chamber. The Opposition were not satisfied with the Ministerial explanations, and proposed Votes of Censure.

The *Standard's* correspondent at Rome says:—"Monsignor Donnelly has confidentially begged the Pope to permit him to decline the Archbishopric of Dublin, on the ground that his nomination would cause discord. I am further informed that Mr. Errington, in his latest conversation with Cardinal Simeoni, though not withdrawing his opposition to Mr. Walsh, insisted less premptorily on his objection to that gentleman. In an interview with the Pope, the Archbishop of Tuam, while recognising the difficult position in which the Holy See is placed, ventured to represent to the Holy Father that the fact of the Vatican having shown greater deference to the English Government than to the wishes of the Irish clergy would produce a very bad effect in Ireland. My impression is that Mr. Walsh will be appointed; but the Pontiff continues to hesitate."

GERMANY.—The marriage of Prince Albert of Saxe-Altenberg to Princess Marie, daughter of Prince Frederick Charles (the Red Prince, father of the Duchess of Connaught), was solemnised quietly on Wednesday afternoon in the palace of Prince Frederick Charles at Berlin.

AMERICA.—The President has appointed Mr. Anthony Keiley (Virginia) Minister to Austria. Mr. Keiley was previously appointed to Rome, but he has been transferred because, in January, 1871, he made a violent speech at a Roman Catholic meeting at Richmond against the entry of Italian troops into Rome.

At midnight on Wednesday, Captain Boyton, the inventor of a swimming suit in which he crossed the Straits of Dover, went out into New York Harbour equipped in one of his rubber dresses, and, without being observed by the watch on board Her Majesty's ship *Garnet*, approached that vessel. He succeeded in attaching a dummy torpedo to a floating spar which protected the bows of the vessel, and then got safely away. The tide carried the dummy amidships, where it remained until it excited attention, and the alarm was given. Boyton has, it is said, admitted that his freak was a practical joke in revenge for the neglect by the English Admiralty of his invention.

The trial of Short for the assault on Phelan in O'Donovan Rossa's office has terminated by the jury, after deliberating for two hours, finding a verdict of not guilty. The judge expressed his surprise at the verdict, and the newspapers generally speak of it as a shameful miscarriage of justice. It is difficult, however, to see why the jurors should be blamed. They were compelled to find the accused guilty of an assault with intent to kill, or to acquit him. The evidence showed that Phelan provoked a quarrel with Short, and was worsted because the latter was too quick for him.

BELGIUM.—The King of the Belgians, in company with the Queen and other members of the Royal family, visited Antwerp on Saturday for the purpose of opening the "Exposition Universelle." The King was received by the President and the members of the Executive Committee of the Exhibition, and conducted to the throne. M. Victor Lynen, the President, read an address, to which the King replied. After a grand musical performance the King proceeded to the French Court, where a daïs was erected, from which his Majesty declared the Exhibition open, and signed the register. His Majesty, after visiting the machinery department, returned to the station *en route* for Brussels.

On Monday morning the Lord Mayor arrived in Brussels, and at eleven o'clock, accompanied by the deputation of the City Corporation, proceeded to the palace to present to the King an address congratulating him on the work done for civilisation by the creation of the Congo Free State. The King, in thanking the deputation, begged them to impress upon the great merchants of London his hope that they would to the best of their ability encourage and assist the trade of the State. After some conversation his Majesty invited the deputation to dine with him that evening. The members of the British Legation were invited. On Tuesday the deputation lunched with the burgomaster at the Hôtel de Ville.

AUSTRIA.—The Hungarian National Exhibition, at Pesth, was formally opened at noon on Saturday by the Emperor of Austria. Among those present were the Crown Prince and Princess, the members of the Imperial family staying in Pesth, Dr. Lucius, the Prussian Minister of Agriculture, Prince Reuss, the German Ambassador at Vienna, the other members of the Diplomatic Body, the foreign consuls, the Hungarian Ministers, the members of both Houses of the Legislature, the Court dignitaries, the civil and military authorities, and an assemblage of the general public, including many distinguished personages. The Emperor, the Crown Prince and Princess, together with all the other notabilities present, afterwards inspected the Exhibition, passing through the Hall of Industry to the various pavilions.

Old Prince Alexander Karageorgevitch died at Temesvar, in Vienna, on Sunday, aged 79. He was a son of George Petrovitch, surnamed Karageorg (the Black George), the liberator of Servia, who was murdered in 1817 at the instigation, as is asserted by the Karageorgevitch family, of Milos Obrenovitch, his rival, and the founder of the dynasty now reigning in Servia. The consequence of that suspicion (the *Times* correspondent says) was a mortal hatred between the houses of Obrenovitch and Karageorgevitch, which degenerated into a sort of vendetta against the family of the former. When, in 1842, Prince Michael Obrenovitch was dethroned, Alexander Karageorgevitch became Prince of Servia. He reigned until 1858, when he was overthrown by the Panslavist and Russian party in Servia. He retired to Hungary, living partly at Buda-Pesth, partly at Temesvar. When Prince Michael Obrenovitch, who again succeeded him, was murdered in 1868 in the park of Toptschider, the accusation was raised at Belgrade against Alexander Karageorgevitch of his being the instigator. The Hungarian Government refused his extradition demanded by Servia, and placed him before the tribunal at Pesth in 1871. He was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment, but was acquitted by the Emperor. He has since lived in great retirement. His eldest son Peter married a daughter of the Prince of Montenegro, the Princess Zorka.

CANADA.—General Middleton has sent his wounded back to Clarke's Crossing, where there is a tolerable hospital. A deserter states that Riel has but 150 half-breeds and 250 Indians, and that he is without much ammunition, having partly exhausted his supplies in the fight of the 24th ult. Riel has issued a proclamation telling the half-breeds who have hitherto refused to join him that they must come immediately or he will murder them. On Monday the wires were again cut, so that there is no communication with General Middleton.

According to intelligence received at Ottawa an engagement took place at Battleford on Sunday last between 300 Canadian troops and 600 Indians owing allegiance to the chief Pound-maker. The troops lost seven killed and twelve wounded. The Indians were completely routed, more than 100 of their number being killed and the remainder driven from the reserve. The troops subsequently returned to Battleford, having marched altogether seventy miles, besides fighting, within thirty hours.

The High Commissioner for Canada has received from the Canadian Government a telegram stating that Colonel Otter attacked Chief Poundmaker on his Reserve, about thirty-five miles west of Battleford, on Sunday last, and demolished his camp. The Indians were defeated with great loss, about one hundred being killed and wounded. Colonel Otter lost eight men killed and fifteen wounded. Among the killed were Corporals R. B. Sleigh and W. H. T. Lowry, and Trumpeter P. Burke, of the North-West Mounted Police; Privates John Rogers and Osgood, of the Governor General's Foot Guards, and three others, whose names have not yet been received. After the encounter, having accomplished his object, Colonel Otter returned to his camp at Battleford. It may be added that Chief Poundmaker and his Indians have been giving considerable trouble at Battleford since the outbreak of Riel, and had invested that place. Colonel Otter was despatched by General Middleton to its relief, and marched from Swift Current, a station on the Canadian Pacific Railway, to Battleford (200 miles) in seven days. On his approach the Indians retired, but, after resting his men, Colonel Otter went with a portion of his command to Poundmaker's Reserve, with the result given above. This chief is one of the few along the North branch of the Saskatchewan who have shown sympathy with Riel, and the defeat of Poundmaker should have a beneficial effect upon the others. Endeavours have evidently been made by Riel to induce the Indians in other parts of the North-West Territories to rise against the Canadian Government, but so far without success. No general rising has taken place, and such an event is not expected. General Middleton has now 4,000 men under his command, and the presence of this force must exercise considerable influence in the districts in which they are encamped. General Middleton's position is near Batocke's Crossing, about ninety miles to the east of Battleford. Reinforcements and supplies have now reached him, and a further encounter with the Half-breeds under Riel is expected very shortly.

EGYPT.—The question of the *Bosphore Egyptien* appears now to be settled, and the terms were announced in Parliament on Monday. On Friday morning the French consul at Alexandria went to Cairo to arrange the formalities of the reparation to be made to M. Taillandier, the acting consul-general, who remained meanwhile at Alexandria. On Saturday M. Taillandier returned to Cairo, where he was met at the station by the staff of the consulate and the Khedive's master of the ceremonies. On Sunday, Nubar Pasha called on M. Taillandier to apologise for any offence given to the French Government. M. Taillandier subsequently returned the visit and notified to the Khedive the resumption of diplomatic relations with France. On Monday, the editor of the *Bosphore* put up a notice in the French shops stating that it was impossible for him to publish his newspaper the day before, owing to the machinery being out of order, but that the moment it is repaired the *Bosphore Egyptien* will reappear.

The night attacks of the enemy on the railway have necessitated the construction of two armoured trucks, which, with an engine between them, now nightly patrol the line. The trucks are defended by a breastwork of three-eighths of an inch plates of iron, the upper portion being loop-holed and having a long slit for the rifle barrels. The trucks hold forty men, who sit on bales of hay and carry picks and shovels for repairing the line. The fireman and driver are also armed. The men in this ironclad train, on Thursday night, while at Handoub, observed fires on the line. The driver put on steam and ran up at full speed. No less than six fires were found burning. The enemy had scooped out the sand beneath the line, filled up the excavation with brushwood, piled up some loose sleepers, and set the whole on fire, destroying several sleepers and heating the rails red-hot in parts. The men in the trucks opened fire on the spot where the enemy was supposed to be, apparently without result. The attempt was made at the same place as the previous ones, where a dry watercourse descends from a thick belt of bush, which throws a strong shadow in the moonlight. It is believed that the enemy's parties, which might number some hundreds, creep along this shadow up to the railway, and vanish into it. At daylight the armoured train returns to Quarantine Island.

A force, consisting of the Camel Corps, the Bengal Lancers, and detachments of mounted infantry, and the 20th Hussars under the command of General Graham, left Souakim at midnight on Wednesday for Tackhol, where they were joined by the Sikhs and friendlies from Otao. The troops surprised a body of 400 of the enemy, killing sixty of their number, and capturing twelve prisoners and 150 head of cattle. After burning the village the force retired, the fighting continuing till they had passed through Hasheen. The casualties on the British side amounted to one officer and three men slightly wounded. The correspondent of a colonial paper was also wounded.

As the English troops were driving to Souakim a portion of the sheep and goats that had been taken they were attacked by the Hadendowas, who regained possession of the flock. The main force of the British came up to the aid of those who had been put in charge of the sheep, and regained the booty. Many of the natives were killed; nevertheless, the Arabs went down the next night and again damaged the railway.

Major Boyle, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, died on Wednesday of enteric fever. The deceased was brigade-major at the camp at Kuros, below Debbeh.

A Cairo telegram states that owing to the very low state of the Nile the sea has encroached several miles up the river banks beyond Rosetta, and the consequences have become most serious. The Egyptian Government is sending fresh water by train and boat for the inhabitants. An eye-witness writing to the *Egyptian Gazette*, says:—"The want of a supply of fresh water to this important town has undoubtedly assumed a most grave aspect. The Nile water is salt and undrinkable for some miles above Rosetta. The water in the wells and sakeeyehs is equally unfit for consumption. The only drinking water obtainable is that stored in the cisterns, which is of a very good quality, but of such limited quantity as not to suffice for a fortnight's need of the population, even if it were placed on a small daily allowance. Some boatmen bring brackish water from a point ten miles above Rosetta, which they sell at 5d. per skin. The cattle are dying, it is believed from the effects of drinking the salt water. The lands in the neighbourhood where cotton and rice are cultivated, having been irrigated with this water, are already showing signs that the vegetation is suffering from its effects. Women are met returning from the outskirts with their jars empty, having failed to obtain fresh water." There is no hope of fresh water coming down the Nile until the end of July.

The *Standard* prints the following extract from a letter from an officer of the Scots Guards at Souakim, in which an account is given of the state of the ground after the fight at M'Neill's zareba:—

"We marched back (from Tamai) to the zareba that night, and bivouacked amongst the corpses outside, which, though buried, asserted their presence in the most emphatic way. Next day we marched back to Souakim; never again, as I hope, to see M'Neil's zareba. 'Tom Cringle' ought to have been there to paint adequately the horrors of that six miles march. When going from Souakim, the last three miles of the march were marked at every step by graves, Arab and Indian, so shallow that from all oozed dark and hideous stains, and from many protruded mangled feet, half-stripped grinning skulls, or ghastly hands, still clenched in the death agony though reduced to little more than bone and sinew. Strewed around, thicker and thicker, as we neared the scene of that Sunday's fight, lay the festering bodies of camels and mules; and round them hopped and fluttered, scarcely moving when our column passed, hundreds of kites and vultures. The ground was also thickly sown with hands and feet dragged from their graves by the hyænas, and the awful stench and reek of carrion which loaded the air will never be forgotten, as I think, by any of us. Day after day we passed and repassed over the same sickening scene with our convoys, in blinding dust and under a scorching sun, obliged to move at a foot's pace to keep up with the weary camels, and to pick our steps carefully for fear of suddenly setting foot on one of those dreadful heaps of corruption. . . . . I have not exaggerated in the least the horrors of that awful road. . . . . I am now at Handoub, where we have plenty of water, a luxury which you in England can't properly appreciate, nor ever will until you spend a week in your clothes in a sand-storm with the thermometer at 112deg. or thereabouts."

A few days ago his Highness Ismail Pasha received at Naples, where he is now residing, a small packet which a Soudanese messenger had by some means or other at last contrived to bring to the Italian Consul-General at Cairo. It contained an Arabic letter signed and sealed by General Gordon just seven weeks before his death, and a well-executed decoration. The following is an exact translation of the letter, which possesses now a striking and touching interest:—"To his Highness the august Ismail Pasha, ex-Khedive of Egypt! May God protect him! Among the many honours which your Highness was pleased to shower upon me during your glorious reign you have bestowed on me many decorations of which I am proud, and for which I am grateful. Having been appointed Governor of the Soudan I repaired at once to my post, and arrived safe and sound at Khartoum. Two months later communication with the north was cut off and the city was besieged. During the siege it has been my lot to witness the many cases in which soldiers, civil *employés*, and leading men of the country displayed courage and self-sacrifice in valiantly undergoing difficulties and privations. To reward their commendable conduct and fidelity, I caused decorations to be made for distribution among them. I have already sent a specimen of this decoration to your Highness by the steamer *Abbas*, but as I fear it may never have reached you I send to-day another for your acceptance. Receive it, Highness, in remembrance of my affectionate devotion with the respectful homage of your grateful and faithful servant, C. G. GORDON.—*Khartoum, Dec.* 3, 1884."

The Rev. Buxton Smith has succeeded Dean Lyster as Rector of St. George's, Kingston, and Dean of Ontario. He is a native of Quebec, graduated at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, and was ordained by the Metropolitan in 1869. His first charge was Onslow, Quebec; in the year 1880 he accepted the curacy of Christ Church, Ottawa, but two years after he was recalled to Quebec to the rectory of Sherbrooke.

The *Dominion Churchman* announces the death of an aged Canadian clergyman. Canon Ritchie was born at Perth, Scotland, in 1799, where he was educated for the Presbyterian ministry. He was ordained in 1830 and immediately sent to Demerara, where he worked for seven years, then going to Canada for his health's sake. Misgivings arising in his mind as to Presbyterianism he attached himself to the Church of England, and was afterwards induced to seek orders. On the 2nd July, 1843, he was made deacon by Bishop Strachan, as also Canon Leach, who, like Mr. Ritchie, was a clergyman of the Presbyterian body.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

Statements were made in Parliament on Monday by Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone with reference to the agreement to submit the Afghan boundary dispute to arbitration. The *Daily News* is able to state that the choice of a Sovereign to whom the question in dispute between the two Governments as to the interpretation of the agreement of the 16th of March will be referred has not yet been made.

The King of Denmark has announced his intention of accepting the office of arbitrator between England and Russia if requested to act in that capacity by both parties.

It is reported from Simla that Sir Peter Lumsden has resigned, "owing to his disagreement with the policy of the Home Government." In connection with this report the *Standard* says:—"It is stated in well-informed quarters that Sir Peter Lumsden, feeling that he was not adequately supported by the Government, some weeks ago expressed a desire to return to this country." He is expected to reach London by the 2nd of June. Mr. Condie Stephen is expected on Monday.

Contradiction is given by the *Daily News* to the statement that the Russian Government had made it one of the conditions for the resumption of negotiations that Port Hamilton should not be occupied by Great Britain. The same authority also denies that another condition was imposed by the Russian Government to the effect that the Indian Government should receive instructions not to despatch arms and ammunition to the Ameer. It further understands that the Russian Government has offered positive assurances that it has no design of taking possession of Herat now or at any future time.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* hears from St. Petersburg that the extraordinary meeting of the State Council, which was summoned on the 1st of May in order to deliberate on the Anglo-Russian difficulty, and which resulted in proposals which led to the acceptance of arbitration, was convoked at the pressing instance of M. de Giers. The correspondent adds that diplomatic circles consider that England has distinctly receded, and that the moral effect in Asia of Russia's diplomatic victory will be considerable. The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* says that the whole independent German press speaks of the compromise as a complete surrender on the part of Mr. Gladstone, and refuses to believe that a peace secured on such terms can be lasting.

Penjdeh, according to information transmitted from Teheran, is now occupied by a small Russian force with three guns. The telegraph line has been completed to a point 120 miles beyond Askabad, where there is at present a lull in the Russian preparations.

Several of the correspondents have something to report as to war preparations. The following telegram from the Hongkong correspondent of the *Times* is, notwithstanding the altered prospect, of interest:—

"China is ready to welcome an English alliance against Russia if Afghanistan, Kashgar, or Corea is threatened. Should war be declared, China would promptly hurl her northern troops, well organised, drilled, and ready, into the field against the Amoor provinces, which are weakly defended. The English fleet should scour the seas, protect the coasts, and transport the Chinese troops from Southern China, where they are now released, to Lazareff or elsewhere. The Chinese troops and fortifications are strong on the Manchurian frontier. Japan favours the arrangement strongly. The northern troops are the best in China. They are never sent south, but are kept ready for any emergency in the north. The Chinese fleet possesses a nucleus of most valuable vessels, heavily armed; also torpedo-boats. The Chinese army should be directed by British officers, and the Chinese fleet officered by Europeans commanded by British."

One result of the Rawul Pindee durbar will be that the army of the Ameer will be practically rearmed. It is stated that the Indian Government, besides the 10,000 Sniders already presented, is sending the Ameer 10,000 Martini-Henrys, 10,000 Enfields, 30,000,000 rounds of ammunition, 17 Nordenfeldts, and a large quantity of accoutrements.

The Tirpul correspondent of the *Daily News*, telegraphing on the 1st of May (*vid* Meshed, May 5), says:—

"It is thought among the Kharasani, the Afghans, and the Persians that the population of Herat and also of Candahar are suspicious of Russian designs, and that they desire to place themselves under British protection. The idea seems to prevail, too, that only a British occupation of Herat will check Russian intrigues. The Afghans themselves express the

fullest confidence in the sincerity of British friendship, and appear to be satisfied that it is not put forward to cover ulterior designs. Great satisfaction is expressed in Herat at the reception the Ameer met with in India, and at his approval of the action of the commander of the Afghan troops at Pul-i-Khisti. The Great Tejend dam north of Sarakhs has burst, and is now being repaired, thus stopping the passage of troops to Merv while the Tejend is flooded."

The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent at Tirpul states that the Russian telegraph line towards Merv is completed as far as Kahkaha, 100 miles east of Askabad. The loss of Afghans in the defence at Pul-i-Khisti was 237. The Allahabad correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* telegraphs :—

"Intelligence that has reached here from Cabul states that the Ameer has ordered troops to be sent from Candahar to escort to Herat the guns which the Government have given to his Highness, and which are to be sent to Herat. One result of the Russian frontier being conterminous with that of Afghanistan will be, according to competent authorities, that it will always be necessary to have a force in India of not less than 60,000 English troops, and 150,000 native troops. A very favourable impression has been created here by the telegraphic summary of the speech delivered by Lord Randolph Churchill in the House of Commons last night. His lordship created an excellent impression while here, and all circles agree to-day in applauding his attitude on the Afghan frontier difficulty."

The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Simla sends an account received from an eye-witness of the fight near Penjdeh on the 30th of March. From it we take the following :—

"Taib Salar, the Afghan commander, on the 29th of March received an ultimatum from General Komaroff saying that, unless the Afghans retired from the right bank of the Murghab and the left bank of the Kushk by evening, the Russians would drive them out. Captain Yate, who had been deputed by Sir Peter Lumsden to watch the course of affairs in the Penjdeh oasis, had an interview the same day with the Russian Chief of the Staff (Zacharevski), who complained of the Afghans advancing their outposts to the left bank of the Kushk. Captain Yate pointed out that the Afghan pickets had occupied a position on the left bank of the Kushk since the 12th of March, but he promised to try and arrange the Afghan outposts to the satisfaction of the Russians. This was five or six days before the Anglo-Russian agreement that the Afghans and Russians should not advance beyond the positions they then occupied, pending the negotiations. At this time the Russians were in occupation not only of Pul-i-Khatun, but also of Zulfikar and Ak Robat, the two latter which they had occupied in retaliation for a merely temporary advance of the Afghans to Sari Yazi. The same night Taib Salar, after consultation with the British officers, declined to evacuate the left bank of the Kushk, but offered to consider any reasonable proposals of General Komaroff regarding pickets and outposts. No answer was returned to this very reasonable suggestion—which, if acted upon, might have prevented the subsequent collision.

"The next morning the Russians, under cover of rain and a heavy mist, advanced upon the Afghans on the left bank of the Kushk, the Turkoman cavalry covering the infantry advance. This drew the Afghan fire, when the Turomans opened out, showing a battalion of the 63rd Regiment, a sotnia of Cossacks, and eight guns. Two of the latter came into action, the infantry firing volleys for half an hour, and sweeping the Afghans down in files. The Afghans, with muzzle-loaders and wet powder, answered feebly, while two guns in bad position replied to the Russian artillery. The Kushk was swollen and unfordable, and the only road of retreat or for reinforcements was the narrow bridge of Pul-i-Khisti, six or eight feet wide. The Cossacks swept round the left flank of the Afghans, and the Russian infantry charged the entrenchments and carried them at the point of the bayonet, killing hundreds of the defenders, who made a desperate resistance. At the first sound of firing the British officers, who were about five miles south of Ak Tepe, hurried to the spot, and met the Afghans in full retreat both from Ak Tepe and Pul-i-Khisti.

"Colonel Alikhanoff, with a strong escort, crossed the bridge of Pul-i-Khisti and occupied the Afghan Military Governor's tent ; but no pursuit was made. Colonel Alikhanoff ordered his Sarik-Turcomans to attack Captain Yate's party, which had just come up during the Afghan retreat from the bridge. Captain Yate asked Colonel Zachareveki for an interview, and for troops to guard the British camp ; but no answer was given. Some Tekke Turkomans appeared on the scene, and those of the Sarik-Turcomans who were with Captain Yate urged a retreat. The British officers retired under the escort of the Sarik chiefs. Taib Salar was badly wounded, not killed."

The *Moscow Gazette* publishes the following account of the system of defences adopted for the protection of the Russian capital. It begins by stating that the details are based upon the examination conducted in 1881 and 1882, under the direction of the Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovitch, Commander-in-Chief of the Guard, and the materials collected on that occasion have been worked out by a Commission under the presidency of General Bobrikoff. It also observes that the initiative really belongs to the Emperor himself, when he commanded as the Czarewitch the troops of this military district. "In time of war our capital is unapproachable from the sea. The maritime defences of Cronstadt extend over 27½ versts (or about 18 miles). The Island of Kotline, the south channel, and the north are strongly fortified. The south channel is defended by several lines of forts, of which the principal is armed with 88 cannon of 11in. and 14in. One hundred additional pieces of artillery on the Island of Kotline would also assist in the operations for the defence of this channel. Two hundred cannon are also arranged for the purpose of defending the north channel. The Island of Kotline is itself defended on the west by four lines of forts. Numerous torpedoes and submarine mines add to the defences, and should not be forgotten. Everything is organised also to insure combined action between the forts and the fleet. With regard to invasions by land, partial descents would be just possible at certain points in the Gulf of Finland, but no place along the Petersburgian and Esthonian coast offers itself as favourable to the landing of any large body of troops. Moreover, all the means have been provided for the purpose of closing the road to any enemy. Until 1854 there were besides Cronstadt three other fortified places on this part of the Baltic coast—viz., Narva, Revel, and Port Baltic. In order to facilitate the concentration of troops, these three fortresses have been dismantled. At the present time the coast may be divided into three centres of operation, the northern sphere extending from St. Petersburg to the north of the Neva, the southern sphere to as far as Narva, and the Esthonian sphere. In each of these centres there would be a sufficient garrison to hold out until the arrival of reinforcements, which, with the existing means of communication, would reach the scene of the struggle in three days. Were a descent made in the northern sphere, strenuous opposition could be offered at no fewer than five points in the direction of St. Petersburg, without considering what might be done by improvised fortifications."

THE CAPTURE OF KHARTOUM.

The *Daily News* prints a letter from a correspondent at Dongola, which contains some information about the fall of Khartoum as told by two men who arrived at Dongola on the 11th of April. The men were soldiers in General Gordon's army ; they were captured when Khartoum fell, and sold as slaves, but ultimately escaped. Their names are Said Abdullah and Jacoob Mahomet. The letter continues : After stating that they were taken first to Omdurman subsequently to the capture of Khartoum, were then stolen by Arabs and sold to two Kabbabish merchants, and afterwards escaped from Aboudom to Debbeh, from which place they had reached Dongola, they went on to relate the doings of Farig Pasha previously to the taking of Khartoum. I have given you some account of this story by telegraph, and it has been partly made familiar substantially through other channels. They continued : "That night Khartoum was delivered into the hands of the rebels. It fell through the treachery of the accursed Farig Pasha, the Circassian, who opened the gate. May he never reach Paradise ! May Shaytan take possession of his soul ! But it was Kismet. The gate was called "Bouri." It was on the Blue Nile. We were on guard near, but did not see what was going on. We were attacked and fought desperately at the gate. Twelve of us were killed and twenty-two retreated to a high room, where we were taken prisoners.

"And now came the ending. The red flag with the crescent was destined no more to wave over the Palace ; nor would the strains of the hymn of his Highness the Effendina be heard any more at evening within Khartoum. Blood was to flow in her streets, in her dwellings, in her very mosque, and on the Kenniseh of the Narsira.

"A cry arose, 'To the Palace ! to the Palace !' A wild and furious band rushed towards it, but they were resisted by the black troops, who fought desperately. They knew there was no mercy for them, and that even were their lives spared they would be enslaved, and the state of the slave, the perpetual bondage with hard taskmasters, is worse than death. Slaves are not treated well, as you think ; heavy chains are round their ankles and middle and they are lashed for the least offence till blood flows. We had fought for the Christian Pasha and for the Turks, and we knew that we should receive no mercy. We, the party I was with, could not help being taken prisoners. The house was set on fire. The fight raged, and the slaughter continued till the streets were slippery with blood. The rebels rushed onward to the palace. We saw a mass rolling to and fro, but did not see Gordon Pasha killed. He met his fate as he was leaving the Palace near the large tree which stands on the esplanade. The Palace is not a stone's throw, or at any rate a gunshot distance, from the Austrian Consul's house. He was going in that direction, to the magazine on the Kenniseh, a long way off. We did not hear what became of his body, nor did we hear that his head was cut off ; but we saw the head of the traitor Farig, who met with his deserts. We have heard that it was the blacks that ran away, and that the Egyptian soldiers fought well ; that is not true. They were craven. Had it not been for them, in spite of the treachery of many within the town, the Arabs would not have got in, for we watched the traitors. And now fearful scenes took place in every house and building, in the large market-place, in the small bazaars. There were the same terrible scenes in the dwellings were the window-sills and door-lintels were painted azrek (blue), where there had been many feasts and fantasias, where merissa had flowed in plenty, and where the walls were built of wahál and the roof built of dhoora stalk. Men were slain shrieking for mercy, when mercy was not in the hearts of our savage enemies. Women and children were robbed of their jewels of gold and jewels of silver, of their bracelets, necklaces of precious stones, and carried off to be sold to the Bishareen merchants as slaves. Yes, and white women too—Egyptians and Circassians who wore the burko over their faces, the rabtah and the turbah, and the kurs on their heads—ladies clad in silk and satin gibbehs and saltahs. Mother and daughter alike were dragged off from their homes of comfort. These were widows, wives, and daughters of Egyptian officers, some of whom had been killed with Hicks Pasha ; wives and children of Egyptian merchants formerly rich, owning ships and mills, gardens and shops. These were sold afterwards, some for 340 thaleries or more, some for 250, according to age and good looks. And the poor black women already slaves, and their children, were taken off too. These were sold, too, for a hundred, eighty, or seventy thaleries. Their husbands and masters were slain before their eyes ; and yet I hear it said there was no massacre at the taking of Khartoum ! They lie who say so, and are in league with Mahomet Achmet. You must not believe all that men coming from Omdurman tell you. Mahomet Achmet and the dervishes send you false reports of everything, and you believe them ; then they laugh. This fighting and spilling of blood continued till dohr, till the sun rode high in the sky—red, yet darkened by smoke and dust. There was riot and clamour, hubbub and wrangling over spoil ; cursing was heard till the hour of evening prayer. But the Muezzin was not called ; neither were any prayers offered up at the mosque on that dark day in the annals of Khartoum. But the history of those scenes will not be written on its records ; for all scrolls and papers and books in the archives were destroyed and scattered abroad. Yet the howling herd, possessed by afasdet and gin—the screeching devils bespattered with gore, swarming about in droves and bands, found not the plunder that they had been promised or had expected. Then they were exasperated. Their fury knew no bounds, and they sought out Farig Pasha ; but he was with the dervishes. He had presented himself to them as one deserving well of honour and rewards. 'Where is the hidden treasure of the Greek merchants and Bachalees ; of Leontides and Georgio Themetrio? Yes, and of the Franchesi Marquèt ; of the Italian Michaelo? We know that you are acquainted with the secret hiding-place. Where are all the thaleries of Marcopolo and of the German tailor Klein? We know that those that left Khartoum were unable to carry away their silver, and you know where it is hid.'

"The Dervishes, seeing the tumult, questioned him sharply and addressed him thus :—'The long-expected One, our Lord, desires to know where the English Pasha hid his wealth. We know he was very rich and every day paid large sums of money ; this has not been concealed from our lord. Now therefore let us know, that we may bear him word where all the 'felluce' he gave the troops is hidden, so that we may put it into the treasury. Let him be bound and examined in the inner chamber.'

"Then were the doors of the house where the Dervishes were, and the gates of the gardens outside—they were in the Jeneseh—closed against the Arab soldiery, and they were driven out, though angry words and threats were loudly heard. Farig was now questioned, but he swore by Allah and by the souls of his fathers back to three generations that Gordou had no money, and that he knew of no hidden money or treasure. 'You lie,' cried the Dervishes. 'You wish after a while to come here, dig, and get it all for yourself.'

"'If the Inglezze had no money or silver, how did he make all those silver medals we have seen ?'

"'Most of them are lead,' Farig replied, 'and he paid every one with paper.' 'It is false, they replied, and now have a care ; listen to what we are going to say to you. We are sure you know where the money lies concealed. We are not careful of your life, for you have betrayed the man whose salt you had eaten ; you have been the servant of the infidel, and you have betrayed even him. Unless you unfold this secret of the buried treasure, you shall surely die.'

"But Farig, it is said—for we were not there—seeing that his end was approaching, that his words were not believed, assumed a proud and haughty bearing, and an attitude of defiance.

"'I care not,' he said, 'for your threats. I have told the truth, Allah knows. There is no money, neither is there treasure. You are magnoons to suppose there is money ; but if there were you would not divide it fairly among your followers—to every one his portion. You would keep it among yourselves. I have done a great deed. I have delivered to your lord and master the city, which you could never have taken without my help. You would have been beaten back from the trenches by the Inglezze, who, even now, await their time to punish you ; and I have secrets regarding these, which, if I die, will die with me. I tell you again there is no treasure, but you will rue the day if you kill me.'

"One among the Dervishes then stepped forward and struck him, bound as he was, in the mouth, telling him to cease his fool's prophecies ; while another, incensed, rushed at him and struck him on the back of his neck with his two-edged sword, so that with one blow his head fell from his shoulders.

"So perished the arch-traitor—may his soul be afflicted ! But as for Gordon Pasha, the magnanimous, may his soul be 'enjoying fuller knowledge !'

"I say nearly all the Egyptian men were slain in spite of their casting themselves down and praying for mercy. Farig Pasha's head was then carried off to Mahomet Achmet. We heard this when the Kordofan soldiers, who guarded us at the Dormas Gate, talked among themselves. We were there for some days ; we saw nothing ; but only heard what these soldiers told us. They said that two steamers with soldiers had come up and gone back.

"We have nothing more to tell you."

Farig Pasha was probably a Circassian, it was the name of the son of Berkook, founder of the Memlook dynasty. The story of these men, as far as it goes, seems trustworthy. The Egyptians who have escaped declare that they alone fought, and that the blacks gave in ; but nobody believes this.

IRELAND.

The *Standard* believes that a Bill dealing in a comprehensive manner with Local Government in Ireland has been drawn up, and will probably be brought in before the close of the Session. The Bill establishes popularly-elected Councils in the Irish counties, to which will be transferred the administrative duties now performed by the Grand Juries. The Bill will create a Central Council in Dublin, the members of which are to be chosen by the County Councils. To this Central Body will be handed over the functions now discharged by the Board of Works, the Education Board, and other similar bodies in Dublin. We believe also that it is contemplated to abolish the Lord Lieutenancy, and to create a Secretary of State for Ireland, but that on this question no definite decision has yet been arrived at. The measure will be presented with the object, not of passing it this year, but of placing its proposals before the public.

We understand that Lord Fitzgerald has been appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland. Baron Fitzgerald, P.C., LL.D., is the son of a Dublin merchant. He was called to the Irish bar in 1838, made a Q.C. in 1847, and a bencher of the King's-inn in 1855. He went the Munster circuit, and was leader for some years. He was Solicitor-General for Ireland 1855-6, Attorney-General from 1856 until March, 1858, and again in 1859 and 1860. In 1882 he was created a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, with the title of Baron Fitzgerald, of Kilmarnock, county Dublin.

The Irish Press of all parties complains of the increase on the whisky duty proposed by Mr. Childers. The *Freeman's Journal* says that the tax would take half a million out of Ireland. No less than a halfpenny a glass would be added to the Irishmen's drink, while the national beverage of England would be taxed to the extent of only three-farthings a gallon. The *Irish Times* adds that almost the whole benefit of the war outlays would go to English working men.

The *Ireland*, a new steamer for the service between Kingstown and Holyhead, was launched last week from the yard of Messrs. Laird, at Birkenhead. She is 380ft. long and 38ft. beam, and it is believed she will attain the speed of twenty knots an hour. It was stated at the luncheon which followed that the vessels of the City of Dublin Company had made 35,000 voyages across the Irish Channel and had never lost a life.

The new church of St. Patrick, Coleraine, was consecrated last week by the Bishop of Down, Connor, and Dromore. Towards the cost all creeds and classes subscribed most liberally, the rector, Canon O'Hara, giving the handsome subscription of £2,000. A second service was held in the evening, when the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Kilmore.

The *Freeman's Journal* says that the Pope has deferred appointing a new Archbishop of Dublin till a formal inquiry has been made into the truth of a statement which has appeared in various papers that Dr. Walsh (the Parnellite nominee) had been absolutely rejected by the English Government, and that "the Queen has not forgotten that when she sent through Lord Spencer an expression of sympathy with the Chapter of Dublin on the occasion of the death of Cardinal M'Cabe it was Dr. Walsh who opposed energetically the return of an address of thanks to the Royal message." The *Freeman* declares that no message was sent either directly or indirectly from the Queen to the Chapter. The Lord-Lieutenant wrote a letter of sympathy to the assistant Bishop, Dr. Donnelly, who called in answer, and then heard that his Excellency had received a telegram from the Queen charging him to convey the expression of her sympathy to the clergy of Dublin. At the meeting of the Diocesan Chapter, at the suggestion of Dr. Walsh, the assistant Bishop was requested to express to his Excellency, in precisely the same form, the acknowledgments of the Chapter for the expression of Her Majesty's sympathy.

Mr. Jas. Chaine, the Conservative member for the county Antrim, died on Monday morning at Larne, after a few days' illness. Mr. Chaine took a very prominent part in the proceedings at Larne Harbour, when the Prince and Princess of Wales took their departure from Ireland. Mr. Chaine was born in 1841 ; in 1863 he married the daughter of Mr. A. Creery, of Newcastle, county Down. He was first elected to Parliament in 1874 ; he was a J.P. and D.L. for the county Antrim, of which he was High Sheriff in 1873.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

A larger number of Peers than usual were present, and communications took place between the leaders on both sides before business began, which were shortly afterwards followed by a request to the Foreign Secretary from Lord Salisbury for any information the Government might be able to give relative to the negotiations respecting the frontier of Afghanistan, and the suppression of the *Bosphore Egyptien*. Lord Granville read a reply which corresponded closely, though not exactly, with the statement read shortly afterwards to the House of Commons by Mr. Gladstone. As to the Egyptian matter, it was stated that the Government, after receiving full reports from Cairo, had come to the conclusion that the closure of the office at which the *Bosphore* was printed was not warranted by law, and that the expulsion of the French Consular Authority from the office was not justifiable. The "Government did not disclaim responsibility in the matter ;" and, taking note of the declaration of the French Government that it had no desire to shield the *Bosphore*, and raised no question as to the suppression, and further of the fact that the demand for the punishment of officials who had acted under the orders of the Egyptian Government had been withdrawn, the Government had advised the Egyptian Government to express regret at the incidents connected with the suppression, and had associated themselves with the expression of regret. With regard to the frontier negotiations, the Government, "agreeing with that of Russia that they desired to provide means for any settlement which might be needful of differences between them arising out of the engagement at Ak Tepe, concurred with them that they did not desire to see gallant officers on either side put upon their trial." The Government, therefore, were ready to refer to the judgment of the Sovereign of a friendly State any differences that might be found to exist in regard to the interpetration of the agreement between the two Cabinets of the 16th March, with a view to the settlement of the matter in a manner consistent with the honour of both States. Under these circumstances, the two Governments were preparing to resume at once in London the negotiations on the points of the line for the delimitation of the frontier, the details of which only would be examined and traced on the spot. Under the conditions agreed on in the Commission, the district of Penjdeh would be "neutralised" during the negotiations, and the Russian Government had intimated their willingness to consider the question of the Russian outposts being removed on the arrival of the Commissioners.

Lord Salisbury pressed for some information as to the meaning of the various ambiguous expressions in the minute which had been read to the House, and particularly as to the order of reference and its probable result ; but Lord Granville said the order of reference had not yet been "absolutely decided on," and he thought he had better not go into details at present. Pressure, applied by Lord Cranbrook for information as to the proceedings of the Government in the Soudan, had precisely the same result in point of failure to elicit the desired information. Lord Salisbury asked whether it was true the Souakim-Berber Railway had been stopped, and no answer was given to the question. Lord Milltown, therefore, emphasised it by asking whether the Government would or would not give information as to what was going on, and upon this Lord Kimberley asked for notice. The House rose at five minutes after five.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

Very rapid progress was made, in a crowded House, with the ordinary questions on the notice paper, the only two of them which excited interest being that with reference to King's College School, in answer to which Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT said, in a manner which elicited loud cheers from his political friends, that the matter is in the hands of the Public Prosecutor; and Sir CHARLES DILKE's intimation that the Government are willing to propose a contribution in aid of Registration expenses. Mr. Gladstone was asked by Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT for information as to the situation on the Afghan frontier, but refused, in accordance with his recent custom, to give the desired intelligence at that time. Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE asked for an explanation, and was informed that a question from him was expected. No question was audibly asked, but the Premier proceeded to read a statement similar to that delivered by Lord Granville in the House of Lords. Except for a slight cheer from the Radicals below the gangway on the Ministerial side when the announcement as to the *Bosphore Egyptien* was completed, the House received the Premier's communication in silence. This unusual circumstance was explained by the outburst of cheering which followed when Sir Stafford Northcote rose. The object of the leader of the Opposition at that time was merely to ask that the vital part of the Anglo-Russian Agreement should be read to the House again, and this was done; but Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH followed up this request by asking whether the Vote of Credit would be proceeded with. The Premier was, for the first time in the sitting, cordially cheered by his followers when he stated with considerable emphasis that it would. After answering one or two further questions without adding to the information of the House concerning the Agreement, the Premier withdrew from the Treasury bench, as also did several of his colleagues, leaving Sir Charles Dilke in charge of the public business. He having stated, in answer to Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, that the Vote of Credit would, in accordance with announcement, be taken at ten o'clock, following Committee of Supply, Lord RANDOLPH said he would resist progress in Supply to the utmost of his power. Sir CHARLES DILKE's naïve reply provoked universal merriment, it being this: "Under these circumstances, I will take upon myself to say that we will give the whole evening to the Vote of Credit." Mr BOURKE. now interposed a succession of questions, and complained seriously that the Premier and his colleagues were absent. After a disturbed scene, in which Sir Henry Wolff and other members took part, Lord Hartington returned, and so eventually did the Premier; but neither Minister gave any information upon the Agreement, and at length Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT asked whether the difficulty of the Government in interpreting it arose from its having been drawn up by the Russian Government. Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH also declared that it would be impossible to discuss the Vote of Credit adequately in the absence of information.

It had been the intention of the Government that the first business of the night, after the questions were over, should be the voting of supplies; but in the new condition of affairs Lord Randolph Churchill upset that arrangement and insisted on the bringing on at once of the report of the Vote of Credit. The Government meekly gave way, without a word of protest—with virtually a silent admission that the order of business had been improperly arranged—and the Vote of Credit report was, therefore, the first subject brought forward. Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL thereupon spent an hour and a quarter in a damaging attack upon the Government for their new surrender. The noble lord has lately made great strides in debating power, and he is one of the few men who can now hold the House of Commons with a firm grip from beginning to end of a long speech. He spoke for an hour and a quarter, and compelled the attention of a crowded House from first to last. His two leading themes were the untrustworthiness of Russia and the danger to India, and he elaborated these with great skill and effect. A narrative of Russia's past history enabled him to drive home some telling conclusions as to the lengths to which the Russians were prepared to go; but the most thoughtful and statesmanlike part of his speech was that in which, drawing from his own fresh and vivid impressions of India, its people, and their views, he showed how great is the danger of appearing to suffer any humiliation from Russia. The speech was throughout sprinkled with acute criticism, shrewd observation, and effective taunts; and his treatment of Lord Granville and his quotations from the multitudinous political literature put out by the Prime Minister were barbed with cruel purpose. The hopelessness of coming to any satisfactory agreement with Russia was shown clearly enough, and his views as to the proper course by which to preserve our Indian Empire were clearly and temperately put, and created a distinct impression. After Lord Randolph's speech Mr. LABOUCHERE provided a serio-comic interlude, which Mr. STANHOPE aptly contrasted with Lord Randolph's speech, the member for Northampton proposing to reduce the vote by four millions, and this was discussed until shortly after nine o'clock, when the House divided by 79 to 29. Only four English members voted in the minority.

After the dinner-hour the debate was resumed on the main question by Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, who further exposed the characteristics of Russian policy in Asia. Mr. TREVELYAN replied, declaring that the Government desired to establish a frontier on which a stand could be made, because at present there was none; but this appeared not to strike a majority of the members on the Opposition benches as a serious view of the intentions of the Government. Mr. A. J. BALFOUR confessed his desire for a permanent peace, but believed the Government were not promoting that end. Mr. GLADSTONE at great length and with great fervour urged the necessity, from a Ministerial point of view, of taking the vote to-night, but in the course of his speech the Premier hinted that the Ameer is not satisfied that he can hold the frontier originally insisted upon with Russia. Mr. GIBSON declared that the House had no information on which it could safely proceed to a division. They did not know even what was the order of reference which had been agreed upon, and the Government could not or would not tell them. Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, after insisting that the Government had given the necessary information, delivered a vehement personal attack against the member for Woodstock, whereupon Lord Randolph Churchill—whose speech had been admiringly spoken of by Mr. Trevelyan among others,—was as warmly defended by Mr. CHAPLIN both for the statesmanlike character of his observations, and from the aspersions of the Home Secretary. Mr. Chaplin thought it essential that the debate should not close without a further opportunity for debate, and further time for a declaration by the Government of their policy. Encouraged by approving expressions from various quarters, he moved the adjournment. Mr. GLADSTONE again urged that the influence of the Government would be weakened by such a course, but Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE denied that any such possibility existed, and said the vote had been brought forward with little more explanation than was usual for a vote of £50,000. Sir R. CROSS briefly spoke, and was interrupted by uproarious laughter from the Radical benches. The motion was defeated by 181 votes against 114.

Baron DE WORMS then moved the adjournment of the House, and this proposal was at once supported by Sir M. HICKS-BEACH. To the member for West Gloucestershire the PREMIER replied in an impassioned speech, saying it was impossible for the Government to recede from the position they had taken up. "They could not and they would not." They, the Government of the Queen, asserted on their responsibility that delay on the vote would imperil the interests of the nation, and they could not give way. Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, for whom Lord R. Churchill gave way, insisted that the Premier's was "entirely a false inference." Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL read some apposite passages from the Premier's speeches in 1871 in defence of the course now taken. The motion was defeated by 169 votes to 111. Mr. SYDNEY HERBERT moved the adjournment of the debate, and it was supported by Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE on the ground that the very short adjournment required by the Opposition would not in any way interfere with the preparations of the Government. Mr. GLADSTONE said a short adjournment would not enable the Government to state their case. Mr. A. J. BALFOUR dealt with the three arguments advanced by the Government. As to its general inadmissibility, he said—and though Mr. Gladstone denied it, Lord Randolph Churchill affirmed it—that the Premier confessed that he would agree if a short adjournment was sufficient; as to the money not being spent, it was being spent; and as to weakening the hands of the Government, the Government were strengthened against Russia by such an Opposition. He admitted that an Opposition which was Russian in policy—as the Opposition was in the last Parliament—would weaken a Government, but that was not the case now. Mr. HEALY offered some advice on motions for adjournment to the leaders of the Opposition, which excited general laughter. Briefly what Mr. Healy proposed was "not to take so many divisions until four or five in the morning," it being now half-past one; then the supporters of the Government would begin to drop away, and success would be assured. Sir W. HARCOURT having facetiously offered his congratulations to the leaders of the Opposition on "their ally," Lord JOHN MANNERS supported the motion for adjournment. Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, on the same side, cited some passages from the five nights' debate of the Opposition in 1878, when the Premier emphatically justified such a proceeding as the present. From the roar of laughter and applause that welcomed the uprising of Mr. DAVID DAVIES, it was apparent that the House expected to find some fun in the speech of that popular Welsh member, but, after successfully observing that the fault of the Government in the eyes of their supporters was their habit of giving too much information to the House, Mr. Davies speedily subsided. The short speech of Mr. P. H. MUNTZ was remarkable for the frequent necessity the SPEAKER found for calling the member for Warwickshire to order. Colonel NOLAN was also called to order, and that somewhat severely, because he suggested to the Speaker that he should "give the usual directions to have the supper room prepared." Colonel Walrond was Mr. Sydney Herbert's co-teller, and the House divided in the proportions of 106 for to 164 against adjournment.

Mr. BRODRICK moved the adjournment of the House, and appealed to the Government, by reason of the emphatic expression of opinion on the part of the Opposition, not to prolong a struggle which would only have the effect of damaging the Ministry still further in the country. Mr. GLADSTONE, in replying, excited general laughter when he said, by way of answer to Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, that giving orders is not spending money. He understood, however, from a great many speakers that there was no intention of opposing his vote. Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL dissented from this, but the PREMIER said he would "leave him alone in his glory," and went on to ask that the Opposition should at once give the Government the vote of eleven millions, and that either on report or on the bringing in of a Consolidated Fund Bill they should take the desired further discussion. A humorous view of this suggestion was generally taken, but Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE said it was the fact that the Opposition did not wish to obstruct the vote, but only to take proper means for further discussion. Thursday was fixed for the renewal of the discussion; but Mr. O'DONNELL objected to the adjournment of the House, and thought "the Irish Parliamentary party would have something to say in the matter." Mr. O'Donnell, however, proved to be mistaken, and the House proceeded with the business of Report of Supply granted on Friday. The vote in question having been confirmed, the House proceeded to consider a number of the Orders on the paper, and the second reading of the Oaths Bill was moved by Mr. HOPWOOD, in the absence of the leader of the Opposition. Sir FARRER HERSCHELL, on behalf of the Government, offered no opposition to the second reading, though he would object to some parts of the Bill in Committee, and the Bill was read a second time without opposition.

The House rose at forty minutes past two.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

A brief sitting, which began at 4.15 and ended at 4.50, was chiefly occupied by a triangular encounter between Lords DE LA WARR, GRANVILLE, and SALISBURY with regard to the Anglo-Russian Agreement. Lord DE LA WARR asked for information as to the character of the intended mediation or arbitration, and was retorted upon by the FOREIGN SECRETARY with the suggestion that he was usurping the functions of the leader of the Opposition. Lord Granville also extolled the conduct of the Ministry in the matter of the agreement, as "a very sensible and honourable proceeding on the part of the statesmen concerned," and the agreement as "equally honourable to England and Russia." Lord SALISBURY repudiated the suggestions Lord Granville had made as to the intervention of Lord De La Warr, and remarked that it had been more successful than anything he had done in the same direction, inasmuch as it had elicited a longer speech from the Foreign Secretary than he had been able to elicit, from which speech it appeared that the truth or falsehood of a British officer's statement was to be submitted to arbitration. In the course of the very brief subsequent proceedings, Lord DALHOUSIE intimated on behalf of the Home Office that the department will at present take no steps either to encourage or discourage cremation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

A large number of members again attended in the Lower House, but the proceedings previous to the orders of the day were for the most part uninteresting. In answer to Mr. DAWNAY, the PRIME MINISTER stated that Lord Wolseley has been given orders in accordance with the declaration made in this House when the Vote of Credit was laid on the table. Lord EDMOND FITZMAURICE subjected himself to the derisive cheering and laughter of the Opposition by his replies to some questions of Mr. PULESTON and Mr. M'IVER respecting the Spanish treaty, the gist of a series of replies which he made being that it is dangerous for a Minister to give a different reply to a question to-day from that he had given yesterday. The principal interest of the question time, however, arose from the answer of the PRIME MINISTER to Sir HENRY WOLFF's inquiry whether it was true that Sir Peter Lumsden was to be recalled. Mr. Gladstone said that, as it was decided the communications with regard to the Afghan frontier should be carried on in London, a change would be required in the qualifications and character of the officers on the spot. The Government were, therefore, in communication with Sir Peter Lumsden, and he believed that in conformity with his own views that officer had been informed it was desirable that both he and Colonel Stewart should come home forthwith. This statement was followed by loud cries of "Oh!" from the Opposition benches, and by numerous questions from Sir Stafford Northcote, Lord Randolph Churchill, Lord John Manners, and Mr. Onslow, but the only further statement of the PREMIER was to the effect that he "believed" Sir Peter Lumsden had proposed his own recall to London.

On the motion to go into committee on the Registration Bill, Sir MASSEY LOPES moved as an amendment—"That this House, while desirous of facilitating in every way the registration of voters, is of opinion that inasmuch as the preparation of the registers for Parliamentary elections is a matter of national rather than local concern, the expenses connected therewith should not be imposed exclusively on ratepayers in counties and boroughs, and levied in respect of the occupation of a single description of property." Sir Massey Lopes urged that in the present condition of the landed interest it was impossible that real property should bear any additional burdens, and said the present cost of £102,000 would probably be much more than doubled. Mr. PELL seconded the motion. Mr. H. H. FOWLER, Under-Secretary for the Home Department, replied for the Government in a speech which was very generally applauded, and upon which he subsequently received congratulations from both sides of the House. Mr. Fowler said there was an injustice in the present incidence of local taxation, and that it consisted of the immunity of personal property; but he held that that hardship affected chiefly the burgesses in towns, and not the ratepayers in counties. The local rates were distributed in the following proportions—the metropolis paid 5½ millions; other municipalities, 10½ millions; mixed urban and rural districts, ten millions, and purely rural districts two millions. He also held that the rates were much larger in the boroughs. The burden of the registration expenses, he said, would be 1-10th of a farthing in the pound, and he thought there was no reason why the existing rule should be departed from. The debate on Sir Massey Lopes's amendment was prolonged until after midnight by a large number of speakers on both sides, Conservatives uniformly supporting it, and Ministerialists uniformly opposing it. Among the opposing speakers were Mr. CROPPER and Mr. HENEAGE, both of whom have formerly assisted the movement in favour of reform of local taxation. After speeches in succession from Mr. Grantham, Mr. Hicks, Mr. P. H. Muntz, and Mr. Dixon-Hartland, all in favour of the amendment, the Government was about to proceed to a division. Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH expressed surprise at the silence of the President of the Local Government Board, and pointed out that by granting a subvention in aid of the expenses of registration, the Government has conceded the principle involved. Sir CHARLES DILKE said, in effect, that the last stage of a moribund Parliament would not be the proper time to throw such a charge as this upon the State. Mr. STAVELEY HILL, Colonel NOLAN, and Mr. WARTON supported the amendment, amid extreme demonstrations of dissatisfaction from the Ministerialists, which appeared to arise from a supposition that the debate was being prolonged in order to gain time. Mr. Warton at length gave way in deference to the stormily-expressed views of the majority, and the division was taken. It occupied an unusually long time, and when the closeness of the result was made known—the amendment being defeated by 240 votes against 237—the Opposition cheered enthusiastically. Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH and Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE urged that the Government should take time to consider the position, but the PREMIER declined to do this, saying the result would have been different "if the numbers had been reversed." The House then went into Committee on the Bill, and, shortly after reporting progress, the House was counted out at twenty-five minutes past one.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The House was occupied all the afternoon in Committee on the English Registration Bill. The only point of interest which arose on the clauses was an amendment moved by Mr. A. ARNOLD to allow the local authorities to direct the revising courts to be held in each or any division of a borough. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL objected to it mainly on the ground that there would be no means of checking duplicate registrations, and after considerable discussion it was negatived by 77 to 44. Among the new clauses was one moved by Mr. MARUM to place the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in the same position as Dublin in reference to the capacity of their members to be placed on the borough register. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL at first opposed it; but after it had been supported as regards members not *in statu pupillari* by Mr. J. STUART, Mr. ROGERS, and generally by Sir R. CROSS and others, the Attorney-General gave way, and the clause was added to the Bill. Mr. DAVEY moved to add a clause providing that the receipt of parochial medical relief should not disqualify a voter. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL opposed it, principally on the ground that the subject was not a suitable one to be dealt with in a Registration Bill. Mr. STANHOPE also spoke against the clause, and after some discussion it was negatived on a division by 170 to 102. The Committee then adjourned, and Sir M. LOPES took the opportunity of giving notice that he would move the recommittal of the Bill with a view to inserting a clause carrying out his resolution as to the expenses of registration.

The House adjourned at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

Lord DERBY, in reply to a question by Lord CARNARVON, read the two telegrams from Canada, printed in another column. Lord REDESDALE remarked that it was desirable that the Secretary for the Colonies should give their Lordships some information as to the cause of the insurrection. He confessed to an ignorance on that point, which he believed to be very general. Lord DERBY said that from what he had heard he believed the Canadian Government shared in that ignorance. The Industrial Schools (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

Lord GREVILLE moved the second reading of the Friendly Societies Act (1875) Amendment Bill, the object of which was to give greater security to the members of such societies by requiring that the certificate of an actuary should be a condition precedent of registration under the Act. Lord THURLOW, for the Treasury, opposed the second reading on the ground that such condition would afford only a fallacious security. After a short conversation, the Bill was rejected by thirty-three to thirty-two, or a majority of one.

Lord STRATHEDEN and CAMPBELL, in a speech condemnatory of the foreign policy of Mr. Gladstone, expressed his opinion that war between this country and Russia was inevitable if that policy were continued. He moved for the protocols or treaties by which the authority of Turkey to admit foreign ships of war into the Dardanelles was regulated. Lord GRANVILLE thought that the papers on this subject had been already presented at various times; but if he found any others he would be happy to lay them on the table. The motion was negatived without a division, and their Lordships rose shortly before six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Colonel DAWNAY and Lord LEWISHAM put questions as to the health of the troops in the Soudan and the general intentions of the Government, and Lord HARTINGTON, after stating that the report of the principal medical officer was to the effect that the health of the troops is not so good, though not materially worse, added that he would shortly make a statement as to the orders to be sent to Lord Wolseley. Pressed by Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, he promised to make it before the debate in connection with the Vote of Credit on Monday, and subsequently, in the course of a conversation as to the course of business, Mr. GLADSTONE, after fixing the Seats Bill for Friday, with the prospect of a Saturday sitting if it were not concluded, suggested that the Registration Bills should be taken on Monday and the debate on Tuesday. No positive arrangement, however, was decided on, but later on Mr. GLADSTONE intimated that the debate in connection with the Vote of Credit would be taken on Monday. Several questions were put by Mr. GIBSON, Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, and others, as to Sir P. Lumsden's recall, and Lord E. FITZMAURICE stated that Colonel Ridgeway and Captain Yate will remain on the spot to continue the work of the Commission, but no decision had been arrived at as to when the escort would return to India. Mr. GLADSTONE said that the date of the order for Sir P. Lumsden's return was the 4th, and the intelligence of Russia's acceptance of the arbitration was the 3rd. Asked whether the General was summoned home to assist in drawing the frontier line, Mr. Gladstone said emphatically no, and the negotiations would not be delayed until his arrival. Asked whether the Russian Government had given any explanation as to the delay in sending General Zelenoy, Lord E. FITZMAURICE said this was an attempt to anticipate the information which would be contained in the papers, and he gave a similar reply to a question as to M. de Giers's despatch charging the difficulty on the military aspect of our Boundary Commission, but Mr. GLADSTONE declined to indicate any date when the papers would be produced. In answer to Baron H. DE WORMS, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Russian Government repudiated the statement that Colonel Alikhanoff had ordered the Sarik Turcomans to attack Captain Yate, and the British Government had received no information on the matter. Asked whether the Viceroy approved the Ministerial policy, Mr. GLADSTONE declined to answer the question.

The House was in Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates until eleven o'clock. On the vote of £38,000 for the administration of military law, General ALEXANDER moved its reduction by £2,000 for the purpose of raising a discussion on the office of Judge Advocate-General, which he suggested should be abolished and the duties transferred to a permanent official. Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN, however, having dilated upon the multifarious duties of his office, contended that it should be held by a trained lawyer, and advocated its continuance mainly on the ground that as the Queen herself administered military law it was essential that it should be held by a Minister of the Crown who was a member of Parliament. Lord E. CECIL thought the work of the department might be performed in the same way as similar duties were performed at the Admiralty,

and after some discussion on various matters connected with the Judge Advocate-General's department, the motion was withdrawn and the vote agreed to. There was the usual discussion on the Yeomanry Vote, against which Mr. RYLANDS urged the familiar arguments, and Sir F. FITZWYGRAM bore emphatic testimony to the substantial value of the force. A division was taken on the vote, and it was carried by 80 to 27.

At 11 o'clock the House, as arranged, took up the English Registration Bill in Committee, and the new clauses and Schedules having been completed, the Bill was ordered to be reported on Tuesday. The report of amendments to the Scotch Registration Bill was received and agreed to, and the third reading fixed for Monday.

Some other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at five minutes past one o'clock.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The receipts on account of Revenue from the 1st of April, 1885, when there was a balance of £4,993,207, to May 2, 1885, were £9,656,247, against £8,173,666 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £5,632,569. The net expenditure was £9,664,580, against £7,632,192 to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on May 2 amounted to £5,009 103, and at the same date in 1884 to £5,740,312.

It is stated that, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, the Queen has been pleased to direct that Sir John Lambert, K.C.B., the chairman of the recent Boundary Commissions, shall be sworn of her Majesty's Privy Council in recognition of his signal service in connection with the Franchise Bill and the Seats Bill.

The Conservative leaders have decided to take the discussion of the Afghan question on Monday, when it is expected that there will be a larger attendance of members of the Opposition than could be secured on any day this week. The debate will take place on the second reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill. It is not at present, says the *Standard*, proposed to proceed to a division, but a large number of members have intimated an intention to take part in the debate, and it will very probably extend beyond a single sitting. The recall of Sir P. Lumsden has created an unfavourable impression on the Oppositson benches, and in the debate on Monday stress will be laid on the disadvantage of the course proposed. The Opposition intend to press for the production of some of the papers relating to the Russian Agreement before the debate, and particularly the terms of the reference.

A largely attended meeting of the Acton Conservative Association and the Acton Habitation, No. 312, of the Primrose League, was held on Wednesday evening at the Priory Schools, Acton. Mr. Henry John Atkinson presided, and amongst those present were Lord George Hamilton, M.P., Mr. King-Harman, M.P., Mr. Harvey, and Mr. Roebuck. After a few words from the chairman, Mr. KING-HARMAN, M.P., moved :—

That as it daily becomes more evident that the perilous condition in which this country is placed is due to the reversal of the wise policy of precaution and foresight adopted by the late Lord Beaconsfield, it becomes the duty of every patriotic man to join and promote the influence of the Primrose League, which specially commends and perpetuates the traditions and precepts of that great statesman.

Mr. ROEBUCK seconded the motion, which was supported by Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, who was accorded an enthusiastic reception. In the course of his address he said that the country had found out by bitter experience the mistake it had made when it turned Lord Beaconsfield out of office, and on the late celebration of Primrose Day he ventured to think that the great majority of the English people must have wished that the great man were alive to solve by his prescient counsels the difficulties which his successor had enhanced. The present Government were spending every year it was in office many millions more than was spent by Lord Beaconsfield, and was there, he asked, any one single business or trade in a better condition than it was five years ago? Looking abroad, where was the word of an Englishman respected and where had England an ally amongst the Great Powers of Europe? General Lumsden, because he had faithfully discharged his duty, was about to be recalled. That gallant officer, amongst his other duties, had to report if the Russian officers had broken what Mr. Gladstone himself had called a "solemn covenant." The Russian generals did break that solemn covenant, with the result that they not only remained where they were but were decorated and promoted, while the English general who reported their breach of the solemn covenant was recalled. The English were not an aggressive people, but when they had to fight they did fight. By a real and meant threat of war peace was often preserved, and it was by keeping that principle in view, and by their preparedness for war that Lord Palmerston and Lord Beaconsfield had won many bloodless victories. On the motion of Mr. HARVEY the meeting pledged itself "To promote the candidature of Lord George Hamilton," and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

Sir ROBERT PEEL, speaking at a large Conservative meeting held on Wednesday night at the Windsor Theatre, said that war upon the principles of peace was the most mischievous policy that any Government could inflict upon the country. The Liberal idea of retrenchment was the most extravagant system of finance which had ever fallen upon the country, and he proceeded to compare the increased expenditure in which the Government had indulged with that of the Conservatives when in power. The heart of the country, he believed, was still sound, notwithstanding the miserable surrender which had just been made. Mr. Gladstone had asked for eleven millions when the Russians were at the gates of Herat, and had then made a most disgraceful surrender, and had meanly sacrificed the honour of the country. He hoped they would soon place in power a Government which would enlist the sympathies of the country, and ensure the respect and friendship of Europe.

At the annual meeting of the East Suffolk Conservative Association on Tuesday night, Colonel H. BAGOT CHESTER, the accepted candidate for the Lowestoft Division of Suffolk, addressed the electors. After alluding to the fact that a numerously-signed requisition had been presented, upon which he consented to stand, he expressed the opinion that the primary duty of the representative of any constituency was to look loyally after local interests. He promised to undertake an energetic canvas, so that his political views should be known to all. While most anxious to see the Army and Navy kept up to the highest possible efficiency to safeguard the Empire, he deprecated lavish expenditure, and asked where was the boasted retrenchment of the Government with the present Budget, and where was the promised peace? The Government had come into office under false colours, and continued to sail under them. It was essential that our foreign policy should be of a firm and resolute nature, so that a lasting peace should be secured, and we should be enabled to devote due attention to that domestic legislation which had been so neglected of late years.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, speaking at the inaugural dinner of the Ealing Conservative Club on Tuesday night, remarked that one of the reasons why every good Conservative should be anxious to promote and to cherish such clubs as theirs was the growing conviction now gaining ground, not only in the minds of Conservatives, but throughout the country generally, that the continuance of the present Government in office must lead to what was practically an annihilation of the British Empire. Of all the disasters that their muddling policy had produced, to his mind the greatest was the pitiful mode in which the Russian difficulty was now being treated. If peace were intended to be beneficial, it was necessary that measures be taken to ensure its being permanent; and the arrangement now being patched up under Mr. Gladstone's auspices was not one which could possibly secure this result. The humiliating terms thrust upon us by our Prime Minister in regard to the proposed scheme of arbitration gave us only a temporary and uncertain peace at the price of certain war hereafter, and would, moreover, leave us isolated from those who were now our staunch allies.

At a Conservative meeting held at Ashford on Tuesday night a letter was read from Lord Brabourne, enclosing a cheque for £10 as a contribution to the funds of the Local Conservative Association. His Lordship wrote as follows :—"Although I have felt obliged to oppose Her Majesty's Government in my place in Parliament upon many occasions during the last five years, I have for obvious reasons refrained from attending public meetings or associating myself with any political organisation opposed to that Government. It appears to me, however, that the time has now come when men who have hitherto called themselves Moderate Liberals must choose between giving their support to what is called the Conservative party, or allowing the weight of their influence and character to be cast on the side of men whose opinions are in reality far more at variance with their own. The Liberal party, which I joined more than thirty years ago, founded itself upon the advocacy of individual freedom of thought, speech, and action. That which calls itself the Liberal party to-day repeatedly curtails and represses freedom in its legislative measures, whilst in its own organisation it permits freedom of speech only to an extent sufficient to show that, although independent thought cannot be checked, any action founded thereupon is inconsistent with the slavish submission which the Caucus system requires from its votaries. Again, the old Liberal party had for its watchwords, 'Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform.' The present Government for peace has given us wars; for retrenchment, an enormous expenditure with a consequent increase of taxation; for reform, measures founded upon principles which lead directly to Communism and Revolution. During the past five years the flag of England has been lowered before rebels. Her position has been degraded in the eyes of Continental nations. Her foreign policy has been vacillating and uncertain; her home legislation a continuous concession to any agitation sufficiently noisy to induce a belief in its strength. I ask myself the reason of all this, and I find the answer in the fact that the present Government, composed no doubt of men who, as individuals, are able and honest, is collectively actuated less by devotion to the interests of the country than by a determination to preserve, at all hazards, the unity of the Liberal party, and to keep together the discordant elements of which that party is composed. There are not a few men who, constantly condemning the policy of the Government in private, as constantly support that policy by their votes. I had hoped that such men would before now have withdrawn themselves from a false position, and taken some united action in order to separate themselves from the Radical and Republican section of their party. Since, however, no such action has been taken, I cannot feel any longer justified in allowing past party ties and personal feeling to prevent my giving my humble support to those who wish to preserve the free Constitution of England from the wild and Revolutionary doctrines with which it is threatened, and I earnestly hope that many other Moderate Liberals will see the wisdom of doing the same."

Mr. TREVELYAN, M.P., made a speech on Wednesday at a meeting in support of Sir Julian Goldsmid's candidature for South St. Pancras. He spoke hopefully of the Anglo-Russian difficulty, adding, however, that it was not yet time for Englishmen to relax their vigilance or preparations. When people read how Lord Salisbury, at Hackney on Tuesday night, spoke of our ally, the Ameer, and of the Russian Government, they would allow that no sane nation would prefer him to Mr. Gladstone as a pilot in stormy weather. The right hon. gentleman went on to speak of the necessity of a large Liberal majority at the next general election, a strong Conservative Government being impossible.

"Ill blows the wind that profits nobody" is a well-known axiom, and the recent sale of the goods and chattels appertaining to the "Exeter and Devon Reform Club" affords another instance of the truth of the old saying. The Club itself, which was started with such great expectations, has utterly collapsed, and is now one of the things of the past. The fate that has befallen it is only what might have been expected, for is it not recorded that, "If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand;" and who could ever expect that Whigs, Liberals (moderate and advanced), Radicals, and Republicans could ever form one happy family—at least, for long. There has been "nae luck about the house" from the outset, and if one is to judge from the frequent changes that have taken place, the management has not been a happy one. The Radical working-man never took kindly to the institution, and, if rumour is to be believed, the Club was not an abode of bliss. By degrees, one after another seceded, and, at last, the Radical-Republican section took themselves off bodily, and started what was very like an opposition-shop in the Oddfellows' Hall. Finally, things came to such a pass that no more funds could be procured to keep the concern afloat, and the shutters were put up. The premises were offered at auction, but no one was found willing to give the money asked for them. During the past two days, however, the goods and chattels have been brought under the hammer by Mr. J. W. Reed, and the sundries are now scattered far and wide. Judging from the prices given for some of the smaller articles, purchasers must have bought them as mementos of the past. But while it will be a satisfaction to the unfortunate shareholders to know that in many instances good prices were obtained, they will naturally grieve to learn that some £30 or so was invested to good advantage by an agent of their political opponents in the purchase of some of the cosy furniture with which the place was fitted, and these articles will form part of the fittings of a Conservative Club at Dartmouth. As was said at the commencement, "It's an ill wind," &c., and thus out of the building which was to have been for ages a thorn in the sides of the Conservatives of Exeter their brethren in the South Devon town have found aids to their comforts. —*Exeter Gazette.*

Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE, on Wednesday evening, at the dinner of the Provincial Newspaper Society, given at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministry and Opposition," said that in our party strife we were, perhaps, apt to forget that there were many matters upon which both the Government for the time being and Opposition were agreed, and that in many of these matters Government acted and spoke, not only on behalf of a party, but of a nation. He recalled the effect of Mr. Gladstone's recent speech on the Vote of Credit, and said that if there was anything more eloquent than their great chief on that occasion it was the eloquent silence of the House of Commons, and the unanimity with which all parties refrained from criticism lest there should appear to be divided counsel, and lest it should give any force to their opponents. He could not but think that the effect produced by this attitude of the House of Commons throughout the whole of Europe was most important, and it was his confident belief that it had a great deal to do with swaying the councils of Russia at a most critical moment, and in resulting in a beneficial arrangement; and it was his belief also that when the papers connected with this question were before the House, and when it was possible to tell the whole story, it would be admitted that the action the Conservative party took on that occasion was justified, and contributed not a little to a settlement which was satisfactory to the honour of both countries. He believed it would also tend to the settlement of the boundary question in a manner satisfactory to the Ameer of Afghanistan, and put Russia in the future under specific obligations as to the boundaries between Russia and Afghanistan.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

The Marquis of Salisbury opened on Tuesday evening the new premises of the Hackney Conservative Club, and, after inspecting the building, proceeded to a marquee in the rear of the premises, where a large audience had assembled, under the presidency of Mr. W. A. Tyssen Amherst, M.P.

Replying to an address of welcome, the noble Marquis, who was received with loud cheers, said he was glad to see that efforts were being made to take advantage of the locality under the new state of things which had been established by the adoption of the principle of single-member constituencies. He believed that that principle would secure the representation of Conservatives in many districts where they had never been represented before. There was a Welsh proverb that failures were the pillars of success; and if in the past the task of Hackney had been difficult, he felt conscious and certain that among the classes who mainly formed the population of the constituency the principles of Conservatism were rapidly spreading. As regarded public affairs their present anxieties were naturally financial. They were all feeling the blow of the terrible Budget of a week ago. They not only knew that the sum was considerable, but that in many respects the mode of levying the money was one that would press still harder upon the already tried and afflicted industries of the country. The Budget was marked by a peculiarity which belonged to the school of their political opponents, inasmuch as it preferred to press upon native industry rather than upon foreign importations. He was not a beer-drinker himself—he wished he was, but he should like to have seen more placed upon foreign luxuries. If they would forgive a countryman, which he was, for making an agricultural remark, he confessed he looked upon this additional tax, for that was what it was, upon the produce of barley as a most unfortunate proposition. They might think that a somewhat irrevelant remark to address to those who did not grow corn in those happy fields. But the towns were just as much interested as the country in the success of agriculture. What was the complaint which they were constantly hearing in the towns? It was that there was a steady stream of unemployed labour pouring in from the country, making the conditions of life in towns more difficult than they were before, and increasing the difficulty of finding houseroom, to which so much attention had been directed. What was it that sent the labourer into the town, except that he could not get employ in the country? And the reason he could not get employ in the country was because corn land was being changed into grass land, and the more unprofitable they made the growing of corn—the more taxes they put on property, for instance—the more difficult would it be for the labourers to find employment. Instead of three men to 100 acres, only one man for the same acreage would be required if grass was substituted for corn; and if the number of men who came from the country to London increased, it was because the tendency of the Legislature had been to depress agriculture and force those who got employment out of it to compete with their fellow-labourers in the towns. He wished, therefore, to point out that a great part of the Budget was an additional tax upon land and houses. He had no objection to land and houses paying their fair share, but it should be borne in mind that they already pay an enormous surplusage of taxation in the form of rates. The legislation which put all the burdens of the rates upon that one interest, the occupation of houses and lands, was one of the great blots in our financial legislation. He did not say it could be removed in an instant, but constant efforts ought to be made to remove the burdens under which the population in this respect suffered. He believed that the property which paid rates was but a fifth of the whole property of the country, and they could see how that, for instance, would affect the education rate in this great metropolis—a burden which was the heaviest of the day, and one which was constantly increasing. He believed in this respect a far more just system of taxation might be agreed upon and passed, and one which would still give all the education which the country desired. They would observe that the taxes were a matter which concerned the reputation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who would do all he could to keep them down in order to save his reputation. He feared Mr. Childers's prospects in that respect were not very good. But it was not so with the rates, for the London School Board and the Metropolitan Board of Works seemed to think that the honour was to the person who could spend the most, instead of a man's reputation depending on his economy. The tendency of Parliament ought to be to bring the whole wealth of the country to bear its fair share of these burdens; but that could only be done gradually. But there were other considerations in reference to the Budget. Where were these fourteen millions of deficit gone to? What had they got for it? (A Voice: "Nothing.") There was no solid, practical result for it. We had lost prestige, which, however he disliked the word, was to us as a nation what confidence was to a merchant. But he might be allowed to use the word as applying to the problem which was occupying the public mind at the present moment. They heard of sundry proceedings in Afghanistan, of settlement of the frontier difficulties by arbitration. They were told that the chances of war had disappeared, and that the hopes of peace had come back because the idea of arbitration had been discovered. Consider what that arbitration meant—it was not to be on the question whether Komaroff had done wrong, had attacked the Afghans, and sent two of our officers flying before him, but whether the Russians rightly or wrongly understood a certain agreement which they made themselves and were a party to. He did not mind very much whether the Russian Government understood the agreement or not, but it was very bad international manners to attack our allies as they apparently had done. The action of the Russians was a gross insult to us and to our officers, and if the thing was a matter about which war should be declared, before the idea of arbitration came up her understanding of the agreement was really wholly irrelevant to the question. They were of course very glad that war had not come upon us upon the issue of a Russian general attacking a camp of our allies; but the people of India would not understand all these matters. They would ask what would be the outcome of all these proceedings, and if the story which remained in all their memories was that the Russian general hunted the Afghans and the English out of Penjdeh and remained there, they would simply say Russia was victorious and England was beaten. He blamed the Government for allowing the question to be raised upon the issues which were now submitted. It would be said that we were bound to consider the interest of our ally the Ameer, but now it seemed that the Ameer did not care about Penjdeh, and the Government had therefore been prepared to go to war with one of the greatest Powers in the world, and to risk the whole power and wealth of the Empire in a struggle before they had ascertained from the Ameer what he considered to be his boundary and what he did not. He had been told that there had been a meeting between the Viceroy and the Ameer, and surely it was a very simple question to ask whether or not he considered Penjdeh to belong to him. The question, however, never appeared to have been asked, and then after we had sent Sir Peter Lumsden into the district, and invited and encouraged the Afghans to seize that particular post, we came to the humiliating discovery that the person for whom we were to fight never wanted that post at all. That really was the way in which our business had been conducted from the first. We trembled at every difficulty without looking an inch before our eyes. The Government got into every danger with a light heart, and then they made up for it by escaping with a light foot. This was exactly of a piece with their bombardment of Alexandria and with their conduct in the Soudan. It was of a piece with their sending the heroic Gordon into the desert without making the slightest inquiry as to the fate he was likely to meet with, or the possibility of his return. That, he believed, had been an experience throughout of the present Government, and he feared that would be an experience again in the case of Russia. He did not attribute to the Russian Government an intention to deceive. It was not necessary for his purpose, but they could not avoid looking at past history. If a man did not keep a promise in commercial matters he was called a swindler; if he failed to keep his promise because he could not, he was called a bankrupt; and whether he was a swindler or a bankrupt one was very careful about trusting him the next time. Therefore, making every allowance for the difficulties of the vast Russian Empire, he held that it was unwise to seek as the main object of our policy to set the defence of India on the guarantee of Russia. If we wished to defend the frontier of India we must do it ourselves, relying on our own strength. We should have to pay for the loss of prestige which our recent performances in Afghanistan had caused us, and in proportion as we lost prestige would be the burden and expensiveness of our preparations. But it had come because for the last four years an incurable infirmity of purpose had marked every step in our policy. He did not differ from the policy of the Government any more than he differed from the direction taken by a drunken man. And so he wished the Government not so much to change its policy as to abandon that infirmity of purpose which had marked its every act. We were now told that

orders had been given to abandon entirely any intention of fighting in the Soudan, and that General Wolseley had been commanded to withdraw his troops. If the convictions which now appeared to prevail in the minds of the Government had dawned upon them immediately after the fall of Khartoum, the whole army might have been withdrawn without suffering and without great difficulty. But there was Parliament to meet, and they dared not confess to a resolution to abandon the Soudan. Then there was the splendid spectacle that had been held out for the edification of the world on the banks of the Red Sea. Without inquiring apparently into the possibility of railway construction, the Government, anxious to assure the House of Commons of their vigour, declared that they were about to construct within six months 260 miles of railway. The line had gone a distance of twenty miles, and now all the energies of its projectors were engaged in preventing Arabs burning the sleepers by night which they had laid during the day. And now we were told it was to be stopped. He supposed the only trace of us left there would be that splendid railway, which went from nowhere to nowhere, and the pipe which started from a place where there was no water, and would end in a place where there were no drinkers. He hoped if they left nothing else they would leave some monuments of those who fell, and that they would be adorned by appropriate inscriptions indicating the cause for which they fell. No doubt there would be a monument to the memory of so many hundred men who fell in an expedition which was necessary to prevent the Liberal Government from dissolving, and another to record that those who fell died that the Government should obtain a majority of 29. The unhappy men who fell in the fight at the last zareba in the expedition to lay this phantom railway and pipe would no doubt be remembered by posterity as the people who procured for Mr. Gladstone's Government—in their utmost distress—a majority of 14. He often wondered how they would know this Government in future times. Would they know it as the Government of peace, or possibly the Government of economy, or perhaps the Government of the great calm? (Loud laughter, and a Voice: "Too late.") Yes, it was a Government of the best intentions, placing its trust entirely in phrases, and invariably adopting the course it ought to have adopted six months too late. His Lordship then proceeded in succession to review the course Prince Bismarck had adopted with regard to Angra Pequena and New Guinea, the conduct of the French Government as to the *Bosphore Egyptien*, and remarked (alluding to Her Majesty's Government) that many a man had eaten the leek, but these were the Ministers who had watered and grown the leek in order that they might eat it. Conservatism, he said, had been reproached with selfishness to the interests of this great Empire, but this he utterly denied. At any rate, it had a faith which it held high—the flag of England, and sought to perpetuate that splendid inheritance of glory which belonged to all classes in the country. He might be told that the Liberal Ministers were as keen for the honour of England as they were, but when they had to defer to the wishes of a majority in the House of Commons, amongst whom was a section believing that the honour of England was a superstition, it could not be without its influence. In conclusion, he urged the club individually to labour for the Conservative cause—a cause born of the exigencies of no party and the interests of no class, a cause which interested rich and poor alike, and a cause which would spread to the furthest corners of the world that civilising influence which attached itself to the English Empire wherever it prevailed.

LORD R. CHURCHILL ON THE AFGHAN QUESTION.

Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL addressed a crowded meeting held on Wednesday night in the Gloucester-crescent Riding School in support of the candidature of Mr. Lionel L. Cohen. He said he had hoped to speak upon many domestic subjects of interest, but ordinary questions were not now in his mind. The only thing which presented itself, and which from its colossal magnitude utterly dwarfed and cast into the shade all other questions, was the dispute—the crisis—that had arisen between Great Britain and Russia in connection with the interests of our Indian empire. Parliament and the country were placed in a position of prodigious difficulty if they said what they thought, and knew that they were accused of endeavouring to provoke war. The other night he said what he thought, and the Home Secretary instantly, and without the smallest charitable consideration, accused him before the House of endeavouring to provoke a great international war, and to disturb the peace of Europe. If, on the other hand, they kept silent they assumed an awful responsibility. The news of terrible events came so quickly upon them that one hardly knew what line of action to advise. No sooner was a line of action decided upon than a new announcement of a new surrender came, and the line of conduct decided upon became inadequate to the occasion. One day very long ago they heard that a demand of a rather peremptory nature had been made to the Russian Government to withdraw their troops from certain positions in Central Asia; on the next day they heard that the demand had been promptly refused; and on the next, that the refusal had been meekly accepted. Shortly afterwards they heard that an agreement, which Mr. Gladstone called a sacred covenant, had been arrived at—that the troops of the Czar and those of the Ameer were not to advance from their respective positions. Next they heard that the Russians had broken the agreement, that they had committed an act of unprovoked aggression, and that reparation had been demanded by the Government of the Queen. Then they found that the reparation had been promptly refused; that the refusal had been meekly accepted; and that the whole affair, which was known as the Komaroff incident, was put away on the shelf under a ridiculous sham and pretext of arbitration on the part of the Sovereign of a friendly State. One day we heard that this difficult and critical question of the frontier of Afghanistan was to be settled on the spot in Central Asia, and only yesterday we heard it was to be settled in London. He believed this would be a very bad arrangement for us, and a very good one for Russia, because if settled on the spot the English Commissioner would be found far less pliable than those imbeciles who controlled the Foreign Office in London. Another advantage of settling the frontier on the spot would be that both parties would have the advantage of local knowledge, local history, and local tradition, and at any rate the tribes who saw the Commissioners amongst them tracing out the different boundaries would have some confidence that their rights would be considered and maintained. Another important reason for settling the frontier on the spot was that Sir Peter Lumsden would have a representative of the Ameer with him who would have had, as he ought to have, a large voice in the matter. But where would be the representative of the Ameer in London? It was there, however, that the unfortunate man was to have his frontier settled—a distance of some 6,000 or 7,000 miles from Cabul. He believed the Government for a time tried to be firm, but the moment they heard that the Russian troops had advanced, and had taken up a certain position, they gave way, and informed the Russians that they had no objection to settle the frontier of Afghanistan in London. He thought this was a very grave concession, and was rather analogous to the fight between Heenan and Sayers. On the one hand they had a great overgrown Power—a very flabby, all-over-the-place Power, and on the other hand a champion like England; but he feared we had had the worst of the first three or four rounds, and it might be too late to provide the champion with more faithful and experienced backers. We had had to put up with insults. For nearly six months Sir Peter Lumsden and his staff had been wandering about from pillar to post, exposed to every kind of privation, to much humiliation, and to no little danger, while the Russian Commissioner whom he went to meet had been kept comfortably in the town of Tiflis, laughing, in common with all his countrymen, at the ridiculous figure which was being exhibited by the great nation with whom his master pretended to be on friendly terms. The Government ought to have insisted that the Russian Commissioner should at once proceed to the frontier to meet the English Commissioner, if only as some slight reparation to our honour and name, which before the whole of the East had been wantonly outraged and insulted. But he feared the Government cared as little for the honour of England as it did for the reparation of the Ameer and his poor soldiers, many of whom had been so ruthlessly slain. He did not think it possible for anyone present to estimate the fearful significance of the step in the eyes of the eastern people. The Russians had got rid of four of our most experienced and able officers in that part of the world. The presence of these officers in Afghanistan had been most objectionable to Russia from the first, because they had kept the most faithful and intelligent watch on the movements of Russia, and yet Mr. Gladstone said "the recall of Sir Peter Lumsden was not the proper expression to describe it by. It was very difficult to say what would be the proper description of any act of Mr. Gladstone's—as they know he went to war with Egypt and bombarded Alexandria, and yet he declared it was not war, but simply "military operations." The other day it was asserted that the whole of the Vote of Credit had been spent, but Mr. Gladstone said he had not spent any of it, and had only given orders which would absorb the whole of it. The people of India knew that in the North-west there were representatives of the Queen to whom the Russians objected, and that in deference to the Russian Government these persons had gone away. That was all the Indians knew; and the poor people in Afghanistan had made sure that they were to be protected against Russian aggression, and had shown friendship to the Commissioner of the Queen, and now when the Russian army was within fifty miles of those unfortunate people, by the order of Mr. Gladstone the Commissioner left them in the lurch. This kind of thing could not go on. We could not afford the concessions to Russia which we made when she was thousands of miles away from India. What were small concessions then were now vital with Russia at our gates. India could now hear the beat of Russian drums, and the tramp of the Russian army, and India was looking to see what steps the Government would take. India saw that the Ameer had given permission for us to enter his territory, and now they found that our Commissioner had ignominiously taken to his heels before the advancing Russian army. The belief was that everything would have gone well had the Government maintained a firm attitude, but they knew what had become of that firmness. It had gone the way of their firm attitude against Mr. Parnell, against the Boers, and against the Mahdi; in fact, it had gone the way of every firm purpose the Government had ever made. The fact was they were being humbugged into national and Imperial ruin. The Vote of Credit for £11,000,000 was as great a sham as the resolution to smash the Mahdi was a sham, and as the great speech of Mr. Gladstone was a sham. The Ministers of the Crown were not thinking of the interests of the country, but of the general election. The Ministers were simply electioneering agents of a low order, and they thought that if any action of theirs—any strong defence of the interests of the empire—should involve them in war with Russia they might probably lose the Nonconformist vote. He was constantly told by Liberals that it was no use opposing Mr. Gladstone, and that if he chose to give up India the masses of the people would support him. (A Voice: "It's a lie.") Many people seemed to think that we kept India as a matter of glory and as a matter of sentiment, rather than as a matter of positive national advantage, which was the fact, as could easily be shown. Having quoted figures showing the great value of the Indian trade with this country, he said sixty thousand British bayonets and a hundred thousand European officials could not hold India for us unless backed up by the reputation, might, and majesty of Britain, and if we lost prestige in India we should lose our empire there, and the gigantic trade which it brought with it. The latest action of the Government was a total surrender to Russia, and that surrender would be a formidable danger to our Indian Empire. In connection with these matters we were bound not only to put our foot down but to keep it down, and to do that we should change the advisers of the Crown by the refusal of the supplies which they demanded, if necessary. If he had his way that was what he would do, and it was the proper course for the Tory party to take. If they succeeded the Government would be changed, the country would be saved, and war entirely avoided. By the advent of the Tory Government the whole state of the feelings of the European nations towards England would be so entirely altered that Russia would not dare to attack us. Even though the Tory party failed in their object, they would at least clear themselves of the awful fate of being involved in the hideous responsibility of those who were ruining the country. He implored the electors of Great Britain not to slumber and sleep. Theirs were the possessions in danger, and theirs the responsibility for protecting them. If they neglected their duty now, upon them would descend in full measure, pressed down and running over, the curses of their children, to whom they would have handed down a possession far different to that which they themselves received, a hopelessly ruined empire, and an eternally blighted name.

THE ADDITIONAL TAXATION.

The resolutions passed in Committee of Ways and Means, in pursuance of the proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech, appear at full in the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons. The additional taxation thus imposed may now be set forth in much fuller detail than was possible in Mr. Childers's speech. The first resolution reimposes the income tax at eightpence in the pound under Schedules A, C, D, and E, and at fourpence in the pound in England and threepence in the pound in Ireland and Scotland on the annual value of the occupation of lands, &c., chargeable under Schedule B. The second, third, and fourth resolutions deal with the Probate and Account Duty, the Succession Duties, and the Legacy Duties. Their effect is briefly described by saying that they complete that assimilation between the treatment of personal property and real property which was begun by the Succession Duty Act of 1853. That Act put a small death duty on real estate; the resolutions now passed raise it to an equality with the duties payable on personal property. The fourth resolution adds to legacies which are liable to duty any annuities which under the will of any person dying on or after the 1st of May are charged upon or payable out of any real estate. Annuities to husband or wife of the deceased person are to pay at the rate of three per cent. on their value. In addition to the duty already chargeable on such annuities in other cases, two per cent. is to be paid when it is given for the benefit of any lineal issue or lineal ancestor of the testator, and three per cent. in other cases.

The fifth resolution is the only one which imposes anything in the shape of a new tax. It is precisely equivalent to the imposition of an income tax of a shilling in the pound on the revenues derived from property held in trust. It recites that towards "making a permanent addition to the Public Revenue there shall be levied and paid to Her Majesty in respect of all real and personal property which shall have belonged to, or been vested in, any body, corporate or unincorporate," for the year ending on the 5th of last April, and every succeeding year ending on the same day, a duty of five pounds per cent. on the income or profits of such property which have accrued during the twelve months, after deducting all necessary outgoings. The term "body unincorporate" is defined to mean "every unincorporated company, fellowship, society, association, and trustee, or body of trustees to or in whom respectively any real or personal property shall belong upon such permanent trusts that the same shall not be liable to Legacy Duty or Succession Duty." Seven kinds of property are, however, exempted from the tax. (1) Public property vested in the Commissioners of Works or the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. (2) Local public property the income from which is applied for the benefit of the public of any county, borough, or place, or the ratepayers thereof. (3) Property the income from which is applied exclusively "for any purpose connected with any religious persuasion, or for any charitable purpose, or for the promotion of education, literature, science, or the fine arts." (4) The property of friendly societies and savings banks. (5) The capital of any trading body, or of any body "whose capital stock is so divided and held as to be charged to Legacy Duty or Succession Duty." (6) Property acquired with funds raised by voluntary contributions within the last thirty years. (7) Property acquired within the same period of thirty years on which Legacy or Succession Duty was paid at the time of its acquisition.

The sixth resolution imposes the new Stamp Duty of one shilling for every ten pounds, or fraction of ten pounds, on securities payable to bearer, and "in lieu of any other stamp duties there shall be charged upon a security given in substitution for a security, duly stamped, a duty at the rate of sixpence for every £20 or part of £20."

The seventh resolution raises the excise duty on British spirits to twelve shillings a gallon, an increase of 2s.; the eighth raises that on foreign spirits by 2s., to 12s. 4d. a gallon; and on perfumed spirits to 19s. 9d. a gallon, the latter increase being 3s. 3d. a gallon. Liqueurs, cordials, and other spirits in bottle, not tested, 16s. a gallon; chloroform, 3s. 7d. the pound, an increase of 7d.; chloral hydrate, 1s. 7d. the pound, an increase of 4d.; collodion, £1 8s. 9d. the gallon, an increase of 4s. 9d.; sulphuric ether and iodide of ethyl, £1 10s. and 15s. 7d. the gallon respectively, an increase in the first case of 5s., and in the second of 2s. The tenth resolution raises the beer duties. Mum, spruce, or black beer not exceeding in the wort 1,215 degrees gravity £1 10s., and exceeding that gravity £1 15s. Other beer of 1,057 degrees 7s. 6d. the 36 gallons, and so on in proportion for any difference of gravity. Resolution 11 permits the issue of private Brewing Licences for the half-year for 6s. in houses between £10 and £15 annual value, and 4s. in all other cases. Resolution 12 continues the Tea Duty at sixpence a pound; and 13 readjusts the Wine Duties by raising the shilling level to wine containing less than 30.1 degrees of proof spirit.

Painted windows as a memorial of departed worth and gallantry have an interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor has at all times pleasure in showing his works in progress, both for church and hall, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates sent. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London, W.

DISESTABLISHMENT IN SCOTLAND.

A statement relating to Mr. Dick Peddie's Disestablishment Bill has been prepared and circulated by the Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on "Church Interests." The statement is signed by the Very Rev. Principal Tulloch and Lord Balfour of Burleigh (joint conveners), and Mr. W. J. Menzies, W.S., law agent of the Church (vice-convener). The Committee begin by stating that they have no apprehension that the Bill will receive the assent of the House of Commons, but they deem it respectful to the members of that House that they should state their views regarding it.

(1) They challenge the statement in the preamble of the Bill that "it is expedient that the Church of Scotland should cease to be established by law." They claim that the Church of Scotland has a majority of the Protestant population of Scotland. In 1881 (the latest year for which statistics are available) 46.83 per cent. of the marriages celebrated in Scotland were by ministers of the Church of Scotland, 20.77 per cent. by ministers of the Free Church, and 11.88 per cent. by ministers of the United Presbyterian Church. According to the official statistics of the three Churches, the number of communicants in the Church of Scotland exceeds those in the Free and United Presbyterian Churches together by 100,875. The last report presented to the General Assembly by its Committee on Presbyterial Superintendence showed the total number of communicants connected with the Church of Scotland at the close of 1883 to be 543,969, or 28,183 more than the total returned in 1878, and 83,505 more than the total number reported in the Parliamentary return of 1874.

(2) With regard to the scope of the measure, the Committee point out that it proposes not only to disestablish the Church, but also (1) that the whole revenues and property at present enjoyed or occupied in connection with the Church of Scotland should, upon the 1st day of January, 1887, cease to be available for her ministers and congregations, and be handed over to a body of Ecclesiastical Commissioners (clause 3) to be administered for secular purposes only (clause 33), and (2) that the churches built under statutory obligation (in numerous cases with the voluntary assistance of the congregations) are to be handed over to the Commissioners without compensation upon the 15th of May, 1887, and the only right that the congregations are to have in them after that date is a preference over others to their use, but only on payment of a fair and adequate rent. This means that the churches are to be sold or let to the highest bidder. These clauses refer not only to the old parish churches, the stipends of which are paid out of the teinds (tithes), but also in some measure to the 341 new or *quoad sacra* parish churches, all of which have been erected and the endowments provided within the last forty years by the voluntary efforts of the Church of Scotland. The cost of these erections and the endowments attached to them has been over £2,200,000. The Bill no doubt provides that the Commissioners are, if asked, to hand over the endowments and churches of these new parishes to the congregations; but while these endowments and churches are at present inalienably secured to the Church of Scotland for the benefit of the parishioners, and a portion of sittings free or at reduced rents set apart for the poor, the Bill makes no provision that the congregations receiving them shall observe any such conditions.

(3) With reference to ecclesiastical assessments, the Committee remark that the abolition of these by the Bill would amount in effect to a free gift to the landowners or heritors of £1,200,000.

(4) As to the effects of the Bill, the statement points out that in nearly 1,000 parishes it would be possible for the minister to continue to enjoy his pension and to retain his manse and glebe without being required to perform any duty whatever, while the parishioners would be left to provide a church and to support a minister. The bearing of this will be seen from the fact that in 356 rural parishes in Scotland there is no Free Church, and in 736 parishes there is no United Presbyterian Church. Hitherto the parish minister and congregation have been subject to the jurisdiction of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly; but, according to this Bill, it is proposed at a stroke to dissolve the whole framework of Church government, and ministers or congregations displeased with the action of the Church would be under no obligation to remain connected with it. And yet in the explanation prefixed to the Bill it is said, "This Bill does not interfere with the organisation or discipline of the Church of Scotland."

Dr. Nachtigal, the well-known traveller in Africa, and recently Consul-General for Germany in Tunis, died on board the German gunboat *Moewe* on the 24th ult., and was buried at Grand Bassa. Gustav Nachtigal was born in 1834, and was therefore in his 52nd year. He entered the German Army as a surgeon in 1858; his health, however, compelled him to relinquish that position in 1861, and he went to Algiers, whence he proceeded two years later to Tunis, and acted as a volunteer surgeon during a campaign against revolted tribes. In 1869 he visited the Fezzan tribes and explored the country of the Tibbons or Tibesti, who had never previously been visited by a European, and returned to Mourzouk without having lost one of his men. He conducted several other expeditions in North Africa during the succeeding five years, by means of which he made important contributions to African geography, and in 1876 received the gold medal of the Geographical Society.

The *City Press* states that the Bank of England has purchased for £30,050 the site of the Cock Tavern and the vacant land in Fleet-street, between Chancery-lane and the Law Courts, for the erection of new buildings for the accommodation of the large business in connection with the Courts of Justice.

The trustees under the Aylesford Estates Act on Wednesday applied to Sir J. Bacon for directions as to their power to receive the rents of the property, having regard to the fact that the Earldom and the title to the estates were under the consideration of the Committee of Privileges in the House of Lords. The Vice-Chancellor considered that the trustees were rightfully in possession, and made an order empowering them to receive the rents and to pay the balance into Court.

THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.

THE LORD BISHOP of GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL

will preside at the

ANNUAL MEETING

OF

The Missions to Seamen,

AT

WILLIS'S ROOMS,

King Street, St. James's, S.W.,

ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th,

At 3 p.m.

The LORD BISHOP OF SODOR AND MAN,
The Rev. Canon J. FLEMING, B.D.,
The Rev. R. B. BOYER, M.A., Superintendent of Missions,
The Rev. J. S. FLYNN, M.A., Chaplain of Falmouth Roads,
Admiral Sir W. KING HALL, K.C.B., and
Captain the Right Hon. LORD ROBERT T. B. BRUCE, R.N.,

WILL TAKE PART.

Income, £26,368 19s. 8d.

W. DAWSON,
Commander R.N., and Secretary.

THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN,
11, Buckingham-street, Strand,
London, W.C.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

The Committee are prepared to receive APPLICATIONS from the Parochial Clergy of the Poorer Parishes for

FREE GRANTS of TRACTS for—

ASCENSION DAY AND WHITSUNTIDE.

In consequence of the large demand for grants of Tracts for the Seasons, the Society expresses its hope that ONLY the Clergy of the POORER PARISHES will apply for GRATUITOUS GRANTS.

For other parishes these Tracts will be furnished, on the application of the parochial Clergy, at half-price.

Forms of Application, whether for gratuitous grants or for grants at half-price, with List of suitable Tracts, may be obtained from the Secretaries, S.P.C.K., Northumberland-avenue, W.C. Communications respecting this offer should be sent separately from letters on other business, and should be marked on the outside of the envelope "Application for Tracts."

LONDON: NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE,
CHARING CROSS, W.C.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

The ANNUAL MEETING will be held at the POLYTECHNIC YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE, 309, Regent-street, W., on WEDNESDAY, May 13th, 1885, at 2.30 p.m. Chairman—His Grace the Archbishop of CANTERBURY. Speakers—The Earl of Carnarvon, Samuel Smith, Esq., M.P., the Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor, D.D., Rev. Prebendary Anderson, M.A., Rev. A. J. Harrison, B.D., Rev. J. A. Rentoul, B.A., LL.D., Rev. J. Jackson Wray, and others.

No tickets required. Offices, 13, Buckingham street, Strand, W.C.

NOTICE.

The JOHN BULL may be obtained on the day of publication, at Messrs. SMITH and SON'S Railway Book-stalls, or of any Newsagent, at 6d. per copy.

CHARGE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements of Public Companies, 1s. per line.

General Trade Advertisements (Reduction for Series), 9d. per line.

Notices of Births, Marriages, and Deaths inserted for 3s. 6d. each.

Advertisements over Leader, 1s. per line.

N.B.—Advertisements from the country must be pre-paid; sums not exceeding 5s. may be sent in stamps; above that amount in Post Office Orders, made payable at the FLEET STREET Money Order Office.

***** All Cheques and P.O. Orders to be made payable to E. D. MADDICK, 6, Whitefriars-street.**

FESTIVAL OF THE SONS OF THE CLERGY.

INSTITUTED A.D. 1655.

THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY will be celebrated, with a full Choral Service, under the DOME OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, on WEDNESDAY, the 20th of May, 1885. The Choir will consist of 300 voices, and will be accompanied by the Organ and full Orchestra. The Overture will be SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN'S "IN MEMORIAM." For the Anthem after the third Collect, a Selection from STAINER'S CANTATA "MARY MAGDALEN" will be sung, and the Service will conclude with the OLD HUNDREDTH PSALM. The Sermon will be preached by

THE VERY REV. RANDALL T. DAVIDSON, M.A.,
Dean of Windsor, and Domestic Chaplain to the Queen.

The ARCHBISHOPS and BISHOPS, the Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR, the SHERIFFS, the STEWARDS, &c. will attend the Service.

The NORTH and SOUTH doors will be opened at a quarter before Three o'clock, EXCLUSIVELY FOR PERSONS WITH TICKETS. Persons will be admitted without Tickets at the North-West door at Three p.m.

Divine Service will commence at half-past Three o'clock.

The ANNUAL DINNER will take place the same day, at Six o'clock for half-past Six precisely, in MERCHANT TAYLORS' HALL, Threadneedle Street, the Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR presiding, supported by the SHERIFFS of LONDON and MIDDLESEX, the ARCHBISHOPS, BISHOPS, STEWARDS, &c.

STEWARDS.

The Lord Egerton of Tatton.
The Rt. Rev. Bishop Suffragan of Nottingham (2nd time).
The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, M.P. (5th time).
The Hon. Mr. Justice North.
Alderman Sir J. Whittaker Ellis, Bart., M.P., Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company (4th time).
Sir William Bowman, Bart., LL.D., F.R.S. (3rd time).
Alderman Sir Reginald Hanson (4th time).
Mr. Alderman Whitehead, G. Faudel Phillips, Esq. } Sheriffs of London and Middlesex.
Rev. Edward H. Perowne, D.D., Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (2nd time).
Rev. William Covington, M.A. (3rd time).
Rev. Henry Scott Holland, M.A., Canon of St. Paul's.
Rev. Henry Gladwyn Jebb, M.A.
Rev. William Wayte, M.A.
Rev. W. Allen Whitworth, M.A.,
Rev. John Beck Wickes, M.A. (9th time).
John D. Allcroft, Esq. (4th time).
Herbert J. Allcroft, Esq.
Wm. Wallis Aston, Esq., Master of the Mercers' Company.
Robert P. Barrow, Esq. (2nd time).
Edward Lonsdale Beckwith, Esq.
David Carnegie, Esq.
Charles M. Clode, Esq., C.B.
Walter Cronin, Esq. (2nd time).
Barclay Field, Esq.
Edwin Freshfield, Esq., LL.D., F.S.A. (2nd time).
T. Cheney Garfit, Esq.
Lewis Loyd, Esq. (6th time).
Horace B. Marshall, Esq., Common Councillor (5th time).
Horace B. Marshall, Jun., Esq. (4th time).
Gervas Parnell, Esq.
George H. Pinckard, Esq. (5th time).
Richard Roberts, Esq., Master of the Clothworkers' Company.
George Robinson, Esq.
John Whateley Simmonds, Esq. (2nd time).
Henry Trower, Esq., Master of the Drapers' Company (2nd time).
Francis T. White, Esq. (2nd time).
Frederick Meadows White, Esq., Q.C.
Coventry Archer Woodhouse, Esq., Master of the Grocers' Company.

Stewards for the first time kindly present a donation of THIRTY GUINEAS or upwards, and those who have held the office before, a donation of not less than TWENTY GUINEAS. Stewards become Governors of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy.

The number of persons assisted in 1884 was 1,546, viz., 273 Clergymen, 938 Widows and Aged Single Daughters, and 335 Children, 98 being Orphans; and the sum distributed amounted to £24,004.

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HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

Impeachments of Ministers for treason are unhappily things of the past. It is beyond the reach of doubt or question that Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues have been guilty of treason to the interests of the Empire, but the only penalty they will endure is the execrations of their countrymen and the contempt of posterity. The opinion that we expressed that Mr. GLADSTONE'S parade of patriotism was simply the prelude to some fresh dishonourable capitulation has been speedily justified and confirmed. All the claims of Russia with regard to the Afghan frontier are, as we surmised last week, to be ignominously conceded. The demands of Mr. GLADSTONE for satisfaction for the unprovoked aggression of the Russian troops on the Afghan garrison of Penjdeh are to be satisfied by the farce of referring to an arbitrator the question whether there was a misunderstanding on the subject of the "sacred "covenant" between the Governments of Russia and England. In deference to Russian susceptibilities, irritated by his sturdy defence of English rights, SIR PETER LUMSDEN has been recalled with contumely. Mr. GLADSTONE'S Government has once more concluded an abject and humiliating capitulation. As we predicted a fortnight ago

the Cabinet of Curs has acted after its kind. Judged by their acts and their own declarations, the policy of the Radical Government is absolutely without defence and incapable of excuse and apology. If the territory that is conceded to Russia is of no value or importance, if the claims of Russia that are yielded up are insignificant and of no moment, why have the English Government been lavish in menaces of war during the last few months, why have millions been squandered in military preparations, why has Europe been convulsed with the expectation of an imminent conflict? It would have been so very easy to have conceded all the pretensions of Russia without first impressing upon India and the world the magnitude of the sacrifice that England was called upon to make. The Government have apparently acted with *malice prepense* so as not only to throw away military and territorial advantages, but Imperial prestige. The lying and hypocritical speech in which Mr. GLADSTONE proposed the Vote of Credit, the speech which lied in what it suggested, and in what it concealed, possibly served its momentary purpose of delusion; but the speech is one for which all honest Englishmen will insist that an account shall be rendered by the PRIME MINISTER. The betrayal of the national confidence is an offence that a servile majority of the House of Commons may condone, but that decent Englishmen will never forgive or forget.

It is satisfactory to find that the Conservative party intend to challenge the opinion of Parliament on the humiliating capitulation to Russia that Mr. GLADSTONE's Government has concluded. Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL has vastly strengthened his reputation by the able and brilliant condemnation of the Ministerial policy that rang through the Commons when first the shameful story of surrender was told in the vague and involved phrases of the PRIME MINISTER's eloquence. The speeches of Lord SALISBURY and Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL at Hackney and Paddington this week have adequately expressed the verdict of intelligent public opinion upon the discreditable transaction that is on the point of accomplishment. Mr. GLADSTONE has not even given us Peace with Dishonour; he gives us a truce with disgrace. In a very few months, or a very few years, the inevitable conflict must break forth, a conflict from which no pusillanimity of English Radicalism can avail to save the Empire. The lesson of the present story of shame has been indicated to the English people by Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL. Above all things and before all things, it is the national duty to turn out the Ministry that has brought to England only disaster and dishonour. All dividing opinions of domestic politics are as nothing in face of the paramount patriotic duty to rid the Empire of a Ministry that "stinks in the nostrils of man." Adequately to stigmatise their public conduct and to give effect to the public judgment on their policy it would be necessary to throw aside the ordinary reserves and reticences of controversy, and to use the harsh, plain words that it has rarely before been necessary or possible to apply to English Ministers.

The Radical Government still refrains from giving any distinct declarations of its policy in the Soudan. In the meantime, the English troops are being decimated by disease, and the climate is exacting far heavier sacrifices of English lives than the Arab enemy. The wretched Arabs themselves are being ruthlessly slaughtered apparently for no other purpose than that some few miles of railway may be laid in the desert. The conviction that the Government simply means to "Butcher and "Bolt," and that General GRAHAM's force is employed on the same work of useless massacre that it was engaged in last year revolts the national conscience. The pacification in part of the Soudan and the maintenance of English authority would be intelligible objects, and if declared, native support would rally to the English authorities. But to squander English lives and English treasure, and to slaughter the Arab tribes and destroy their villages and wells merely as a prelude to evacuation and retreat, is a crime against humanity and against civilisation. If the military policy pursued in Egypt only excites disgust the political conduct of the English Government provokes contempt. The French remonstrances on the subject of the suppression of the *Bosphore Egyptien* have been met by the abject apologies of the Egyptian Ministry, and Mr. GLADSTONE's Government "asso-"ciates itself" with their humiliation. There is no doubt that the *Bosphore Egyptien* ought long since to have been suppressed, and the work might well have been performed by an English corporal's guard. It was a blunder for the capitulations to be violated in a way that gave the French Government a plausible excuse for complaint. It was a still greater blunder for Sir EVELYN BARING to give the notoriously unfriendly Government of France the temptation to hostile intervention afforded at the time by the critical condition of the relations between England and Russia.

The comparative tranquillity and the freedom from outrage which have characterised Ireland since the Crimes Act came into operation have amply vindicated the judgment of those who persistently maintained in opposition to the sentimental follies of English Radicalism that for the anarchy in Ireland, which followed Mr. GLADSTONE's accession to office force was the only remedy. But English Radicalism refuses to defer to the teachings of experience, or rather it is ready to surrender Ireland once more to social chaos if only it can advance its own party interests. The Crimes Act expires this autumn, and the Government have thus far studiously refrained from stating whether they intend to ask for its renewal. The explanation of their reticence is the struggle that is proceeding in the Radical Cabinet on the question. Earl SPENCER is not prepared to answer for the orderly government of Ireland if the powers with which the Irish Executive is invested by the Crimes Act are withdrawn. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, however, is supremely indifferent whether the authority of the law is maintained or not, when it is a question of securing the Irish vote in the English constituencies at the approaching General Election. In 1880, it was to the Irish vote that the majority of the Conservative defeats in the English boroughs were due. Before the election of 1885 takes place, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is impressed with the paramount importance of making such terms with Mr. PARNELL as will secure for the Radical candidates in the English constituencies Irish support. Mr. PARNELL insists that the Crimes Act, which shackles the forces of disorder in Ireland, shall not be renewed, and Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is using his utmost influence to secure for Mr. PARNELL the price of the Irish vote and interest. The bribery that is thus being attempted is of the most profoundly immoral and shameless character, but, unhappily, no Corrupt Practices Act touches it. The Minister who is prepared to barter the cause of law and order in Ireland to secure place and power in England is worthy of a somewhat more severe punishment than the treadmill which overtakes the commonplace dealer in bribes. The wholesale trade in corruption that Radical Ministers carry on bears no penalties beyond the contempt of honest men. The issue of the struggle between Earl SPENCER and Mr. CHAMBERLAIN will be shortly known, but the practical triumph is likely to rest with Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, and a compromise will possibly be arrived at which will take effect in the surrender and abandonment of some of those provisions of the Crimes Act that are more particularly obnoxious to Mr. PARNELL and the Revolutionary party in Ireland. A further bid for the Irish vote will, it is said, be made by the introduction of a measure of Home Rule which will meet the desire of Mr. PARNELL to obtain for the Revolutionary party the control of local government in Ireland.

The report of the Royal Commission on the housing of the working-class population has appeared. The Commissioners are able to confirm what was already known as to the wretched condition of the dwellings in which too many of the lowest classes of the population are lodged, but they are naturally unable to propound any practical methods of remedying notorious evils. As we pointed out at the time of the appointment of the Commission, existing legislation provides ample means already for dealing with the insanitary state which characterises so many of the habitations of the poor; it only remains to take care that the existing laws are vigorously and generally enforced. But no laws can reform the habits of the inmates of the slums of the great cities, and it is these habits, the positive predilection for dirt and discomfort, the absence of any objection to overcrowding, that accounts for so much of the squalor that excites our horror and compassion. The lowest classes in the slums have to pay extortionate rents in the wretched hovels where they are huddled together from the simple fact that, owing to their habits and their vices, they will not be accepted as tenants in cleanly, well-conducted, and respectable dwellings. The chief result of the Commission has been to enable Mr. BROADHURST to obtain a recommendation, in which no less than ten of the Commissioners concur, of his scheme for enabling leaseholders to purchase the interest of freeholders. The effect of this measure would certainly be to increase the evils for which the Commission was called upon to suggest remedies. It is precisely the small freeholders whose house-property is most neglected, and whose tenants have chiefly to complain of ungenerous treatment. It is not on the property of the Duke of WESTMINSTER that slums abound.

SWALLOWING THE LEEK.

Not even the hope of averting a terrible war can avail to qualify or mitigate the feeling of shame and disgust with which Englishmen at this moment view the national position as it is seen in the light thrown on it by the events of the past week. For ourselves, we of this Journal may sadly lay claim to have estimated with absolute accuracy the policy and intentions of HER MAJESTY'S Ministers. The valiant tone of the harangue about the Sacred Covenant, and the elaborate war preparations undertaken regardless of cost, were, as we felt sure from the outset, merely the prelude to a miserable surrender of the national honour—a surrender which turns out to be as base, as abject, and as unconditional as it is possible to conceive. Public opinion is practically unanimous on the point. There may be those amongst us who are well content to secure peace at any price; yet they can scarcely deny that in this case peace has been—if it has been—obtained at a very considerable price indeed. As to public opinion abroad, even in quarters most favourably disposed towards England, but one judgment is being expressed as to the character of England's action—that she has suffered a severe defeat; that her yielding disposition is to be attributed to the incompleteness of her military preparations; that the proposed arbitration is a mere expedient devised by Mr. GLADSTONE to cover his undignified retreat; and so on, *ad infinitum*. It can hardly be wondered at that the Russians themselves should boast that England's attempt to mask her discomfiture is of no avail, "since "the reality is too evident to doubt the "motives of pacification." The sting of these taunts lies in their entire and obvious truth.

Not that there is any need to appeal to the universal judgment of the world with regard to the proceedings of Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues. The facts speak for themselves with a clearness beyond the possibility of misconception. They were tersely summed up in a few sentences by Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL the other day at Paddington, in one of the admirable speeches with which we have dealt more fully in another article. First, we had the rather peremptory demand of our Government that the Russians should withdraw from their new positions. This was met by a prompt refusal, and the refusal was meekly accepted. Then was concluded the Sacred Covenant; and immediately afterwards a flagrant violation of it was committed by Russia. This breach of faith was denounced by British authority, both in England and in India as "an unpro-"voked aggression," and reparation was solemnly demanded. The reparation was, in its turn, promptly refused, and again the refusal has been meekly accepted and "the whole "affair put away on the shelf under the ridi-"culous sham and pretext of arbitration." Nor is this all. Surely the least that the British Government had a right to demand of Russia was that her Commissioner should at once join his English colleague and proceed with the work of defining the frontier. But here also our Ministers have given way. They have conceded the point so continually urged by Russia (for excellent reasons of her own) that the work of delimitation shall take place in London, instead of on the spot. And then, as if even so the cup of our humiliation was not full, Sir PETER LUMSDEN has been recalled—we beg Mr. GLADSTONE's pardon: "instructed to repair to the metro-"polis"—and thus before the whole world, before our Indian fellow-subjects, before our Afghan allies, the name of England is held up to scorn and derision. Instead of standing by our representative, in whose person the whole British nation has been insulted by Russia, the Ministers of the QUEEN have thought proper to cast a slur upon this brave and efficient officer, and to treat him as they have before treated General GORDON and Sir EVELYN BARING.

We have said that this surrender is absolutely unconditional. It is indeed pretended that by conceding to Russia the territory she has already seized in spite of our protests, we shall obtain from her a pledge not to advance any farther southwards. What warrant have we to suppose anything of the kind? Why should Russia feel compelled to make any such promise, seeing that we have no power to prevent her advance if she chooses to make it? But, even supposing it will suit Russia's purpose to remain where she is for the present, and that she is willing to enter into an undertaking not to go to Herat, who could be fool enough, at this time of day, to place the smallest reliance upon Russian promises? Yet there are those who talk even now of Russia having given "positive "assurances" never to seize Herat either now or in the future. As Lord SALISBURY observed at Hackney, if a man fails to keep his engagements, you are careful how you trust him next time. It really does not matter whether his failure was due to his own fault or to circumstances too strong for him to resist. Thus the last shadow of a pretence that we have obtained the slightest concession from Russia vanishes into thin air. We give everything and get nothing in return, while our position in Asia is irreparably damaged. And it is for this result that Ministers have the effrontery to ask the nation for a vast war grant. They deprecate criticism of their policy until the papers have been presented to Parliament. Yet they coolly demand a Vote of Credit, while Parliament and the country are, on their own showing, still in the dark as to their policy. We have no hesitation in saying that, under these circumstances, Parliament ought to have refused to grant the money. Dishonour is dearly bought on any terms; but eleven millions is an altogether too exorbitant price to pay for it. Mere protests and criticisms are futile without action. The Conservative Opposition must, as we have repeatedly urged them to do, make a supreme effort to eject this Ministry from power.

MINISTERS ARRAIGNED.

At a time when, as Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL says, every day brings a fresh announcement of some new national humiliation, we hold it to be perfectly absurd to contend, as some do, that the Conservatives should refrain from embarrassing the Government at an important crisis. Week after week we have stated that, in our opinion, it was impossible to expect from this Government anything but a complete betrayal of the interests of the country. That anticipation has been fully verified, and the existence of such a condition of affairs affords quite reason enough for urging all patriotic citizens to unite in endeavouring to expel Mr. GLADSTONE's wretched and degraded Ministry from office. Hitherto the Opposition has, we feel bound to say, been somewhat remiss in fulfilling its functions, especially in the House of Commons. Happily Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL has, to some extent, supplied the deficiencies of the accredited Leaders of the Conservative Party in the Lower House, and both he and Lord SALISBURY have this week stated the case on behalf of the country against the Ministry in a clear and forcible manner which leaves little to be desired. Lord SALISBURY's concise summary of the objections to the Arbitration Scheme is particularly deserving of attention. His Lordship points out that the matter which has now been referred to arbitration is one which is absolutely irrelevant to the issue between this country and Russia. The Ministry have concentrated their attention on the question whether the Russians, by attacking Penjdeh on the 30th of March, did or did not break the Sacred Covenant. What is this but to imply that, if it had not been for the Sacred Covenant, Russia would have had a right to attack our ally? This position Lord SALISBURY most properly disputes. It does not in the least matter, he maintains, what promises the Russians had made. The question is, whether they had any right whatever to attack the Afghan forces—a question which admits of but one reply.

Both Lord SALISBURY and Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL emphatically insisted upon the loss of prestige—the damage to British credit—which must result from the action of our Government in consenting to refer the question of the Penjdeh outrage to arbitration. The people of India, our allies in Afghanistan, our neighbours in Central Asia know and care nothing about the matters submitted to arbitration. The one fact which they do know and care about is that Russia is always advancing and always victorious, and that England is always beaten and always retreating and making concessions. What effect this

English policy will have in India was clearly indicated by Lord Randolph Churchill. That it will have a most sinister significance in the eyes of all India cannot be doubted. Mr. Gladstone has attempted to justify his complacent attitude with regard to the Russian aggression by triumphantly declaring that the Ameer does not, after all, want Penjdeh. But, as Lord Salisbury says, if that statement be true, it shows that our Government were preparing to enter into a great war on behalf of the integrity of the Ameer's dominions without having taken the trouble to ascertain what the Ameer considers to be the boundary of his dominions, and what he did not. The fundamental error, as Lord Salisbury has shown, lay in attempting to negotiate with Russia for the settlement of the frontier:—"If we wish to "defend the frontier of India, we must do it as "Lord Beaconsfield proposed—we must do it "it ourselves. We must do it relying on our "own strength."

This futility of relying on Russian engagements was admirably shown by Lord Randolph Churchill in a speech which Lord Salisbury characterised as "a very clear, vigorous, and "historically unimpeachable description of "Russian proceedings." No man professing to be a statesman, except a person of the curious mental calibre of Mr. Gladstone, would ever permit reliance on Russian promises to enter into his calculations. There is, in fact, not much reason to suppose that even Mr. Gladstone himself really believes that Sacred Covenants with Russia are worth the paper on which they are written; though he may profess to believe in them in order to hoodwink his own countrymen, and persuade them that he has succeeded in obtaining a substantial return for the concessions he has made. Lord Randolph Churchill accurately summed up the situation when he asserted that as Parliament could place no confidence in any declaration made by the Imperial Government of Russia, so it was impossible for Parliament to repose the slightest confidence in the advisers of the Crown. The country is, in fact, confronted by a twofold enemy—the enemy abroad and the enemy at home. There can be no security from the assailant without till we have rid ourselves of the traitor within.

ABOUT OUR GUNS.

We wonder how often during the last quarter of a century attempts have been made to arouse the public mind to an appreciation of the intense importance of providing both our naval and military forces with proper armaments—how often, in particular, the country has been told, as a clever writer in *Blackwood's Magazine* tells us once more this month, that Great Britain is without any efficient heavy guns, and that our fleets and coast defences are armed with weapons distinctly inferior to those of foreign Powers. We fear that it is only too true that, as the author of the article mentioned says, "there "is apt to come over the public mind a weari-"ness of the whole subject—a sense of being "continually plagued by contending inventors "and by technical details." And, indeed, it must be confessed that these continued appeals to public opinion would be for many reasons distinctly undesirable if it were not that other modes of beneficially influencing the Government have failed. Authority cannot and ought not to be relieved of its necessary responsibility. Still, as the writer in *Blackwood* observes, "if there be reason to fear that on matters of "the broadest principle, on points which every "intelligent Englishman can judge for him-"self, we have been for a long time going "astray," then it is both right and necessary that public opinion should be brought to bear upon such questions. And in the paper to which we have called attention resort is very properly had to the judgment of the country, not as to the merits of this or that kind of armament, but on what are evidently the gross abuses of the whole system under which these matters are managed. When we find that it is now acknowledged by our own Government officials that England is four or five years in arrear of all other Powers in the manufacture of effective ordnance; that even the guns with which we are at this moment arming a number of swift cruisers for the protection of our commerce are of inferior power; that this same inferiority of our ordnance actually makes our home harbours no longer defensible; that, from a similar cause, our coaling-stations abroad cannot be made secure even within a reasonable period—when we find all this affirmed on the highest authority, it does seem quite time that the nation should intervene, and should peremptorily insist upon the fullest inquiry being at once instituted into the evils which are at the root of this really alarming state of our national affairs.

No more valuable evidence could be forthcoming as to the true nature of these grave defects in the system now in vogue in England, than that contained in the report recently made by an American Commission appointed to inquire into the right method of securing a proper armament. The United States Commissioners had the advantage of inspecting all Government and many private manufactories throughout the world, and their general conclusion is that while the Government of the country certainly ought to have factories of its own, in order to establish standards and make experimental guns, yet it is to the private industries and inventive talent of the country itself that the Government should look for aid in providing ordnance for the Army and Navy; and the Commission then proceeds to show that the only way to make it worth the while of private firms to undertake this work is to grant them remunerative contracts on specified terms. The disadvantages of the opposite system are, they point out, matter of actual experience. In France, before the war of 1870, the Government foundries were the sole source of supply of the armament of the country. What the result was we are here reminded:—"A "great crisis came; the Government works "were inadequate to meet the additional "demands made upon them, and the efforts of "private establishments were inadequate to "produce all that was needed." And yet although France, when the war was over, abandoned that system, we here in England still retain it to this hour.

In this country the Government practically enters into partnership with a private company. The evils of such a system are patent. It cannot be right that the same men who are themselves engaged in selling ordnance to the nation should, in a quasi-official capacity, be suffered to act as judges in their own cause. The obvious result, in the long run, must be to discourage the manufacturing power and inventive talent of the country; because it is clearly to the interest of those in authority to keep matters as they are, and to repel all attempts from outside the charmed circle to introduce improvements in the manufacture of the national ordnance. That this has actually occurred over and over again is a fact capable, we fear, of distinct and cogent proof—witness the unpleasant cases cited in the article before us. Nor is it merely that the ingenuity and talent of the country are discouraged. The effects of the existing *régime* on the actual construction of our ordnance are alleged to be equally disastrous; and here again ample evidence is forthcoming in support of these serious charges. Anything more miserable than, for example, the blundering in the matter of machine guns we have never met with. And what shall we say of the fact that, "at the time of the bombardment of Alexan-"dria, there actually was not powder available "anywhere in Malta, Gibraltar, or England "to have supplied sufficiently to repeat such "an operation?" The country does not yet seem to have more than half realised the tremendous fact that this question of guns is far more to us than to any other nation on earth. It is to us a matter not of empire only, but of the food by which our population is to live. As the writer in *Blackwood* observes, "we must rule the waves, not merely that "Britons never may be slaves, but in order "that Britons may not starve." Our great supplies of wheat come from India, America, and Australia, and we cannot afford to wait, even for a single year of war. This question of our ordnance is really, therefore, a vital one for the British nation.

LORD BRAMWELL AND ARCHDEACON FARRAR.

Some weeks ago Lord Bramwell moved the House to give judgment in favour of the defendant in the great case of Teetotal *v.* Drink. Archdeacon Farrar has now entered his plea in arrest of judgment. He feels, no doubt, that if he is not to be in the voice of *tuptomai*, he must needs be in the voice of *tupto*. This position he essays to take up, with his customary vigour and pugnacity. He is a bold man, indeed, when he takes for the contest weapons which are peculiarly Lord Bramwell's own; when he resorts to a legal metaphor, and says that intemperance "is the "one curse of humanity of which we might absolutely cut off the entail;" when also he quotes the preamble of an Act of Parliament of James II. as saying that wine, ale-houses, and victualling-houses were not meant "for "entertainment and harbouring of lewd and "idle people to spend and carouse their money "and time in a lewd and drunken manner" (Archdeacon Farrar will pardon us if we take leave to quote the Act correctly, even though it is repealed); and when he cites in favour of local option the legal maxim, *Volenti non fit injuria*, we are reminded of the preacher who, coming one Sunday to preach at the Temple Church, thought to adapt himself to his audience by taking to himself legal illustrations and legal similes—a venture, it is needless to say, in which the trained acumen of his hearers soon caught him tripping. Archdeacon Farrar is more at home when he draws upon the storehouse of his erudition, and tries to confute Lord Bramwell with the imaginative wisdom of Rabbi Oved, the Galilean, who found in the four verses of Genesis describing Noah's degradation no less than thirteen *vaus* (the Hebrew "and"), and saw in every *vau* not a mere copula, but a woe coming upon the human race. In quotation, from the Duke of Burgundy to Lacordaire, from Avicenna to Benjamin Franklin, from Propertius to Mr. Joseph Cowen, M.P., Archdeacon Farrar is harnessed at all points. But, unfortunately, a quotation is not always an argument.

Lord Bramwell's position is known to our readers. It is, in brief, that drink is a good thing, and that the world would act very foolishly if it gave it up. It affords a great deal of pleasure and some good, and there is no reason why the man who derives from it pleasure and good should be forced to give it up in deference to his weaker neighbour who derives from it pleasure and harm. The keystone of Archdeacon Farrar's position appears when he says that he and his friends "claim "it as an indefeasible right of the people to "have a full control over a traffic by which "they are so fearfully affected." It is on this point that he joins issue with Lord Bramwell. The arguments against drink are commonplace, and are only saved from being commonplace in the pages of this month's *Nineteenth Century* by Archdeacon Farrar's well-known exuberance of metaphor and illustration. There is but one opinion on what a modern novelist has called "that great "unfathomable British Thirstiness which "entirely prevents any other business." But when the Archdeacon advocates "the secure "elimination from society of that which all "admit to be fertile of disease, insanity, and "crime," and, almost in the same breath, disclaims for himself and his fellows any "desire to encroach upon the independent "judgment or the moral liberty of their neigh-"bours," then he is guilty of an inconsistency of which Lord Bramwell will not be slow to avail himself. Local option, to which Archdeacon Farrar presumably points, is nothing if it does not set the will of a majority to rule over the will of a minority. He says triumphantly that "wherever a house-to-house "census has been taken, there an overwhelming "majority of the working classes has voted in "favour of local option." And yet he professes himself ready and willing to recognise the liberty of others. At the annual meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society, which took place only last Tuesday, Prebendary Ainslie "did expect Parliament to help to "save the body politic from the nuisance and "evil that come from encouraged drunkenness." And Canon Hopkins exhorted his hearers to "try and get the laws of the country put on "such a footing that they might be used to help "the people in doing good and to make it "difficult for them to do evil." It was, indeed, needful for the Bishop of London to assert after this, "the entire "liberty of every man to walk by his own con-"science and to judge for himself what he shall "do," and to disclaim "the desire to interfere "voluntarily with the enjoyment of mankind." Archdeacon Farrar, too, courts the aid of the Legislature. He wants "the aid of the "Statute-book to educate the blunted moral "sense," and is "sick of the cry about private "rights, which mean public wrongs." Passing by this last paradox, which seems modelled on Proudhon's famous saying, "La propriété, c'est "le vol," we are fain to protest against any irresponsible dabbling with Acts of Parliament. The Socialists of the day would have a re-arrangement of the monetary and labour laws—whatever they may be—so as to render injustice to the working man impossible. The temperance orator must needs repeal some statute—it might be difficult for him to particularise—and so root out drink. It is when he denounces this interference with individual liberty that Lord Bramwell's argument, as the spokesman of the Liberty and Property Defence League, is strongest.

As regards medical evidence, that, like much expert testimony, is fairly ranged on either side of the battle. We may say that Sir James Paget pretty well "cancels out" with Sir William Gull. As concerns experience of the evils of intemperance, we cannot help thinking that Archdeacon Farrar is rather unfair upon Lord Bramwell. The life-long experience of a barrister at sessions and a judge on circuit is quite equivalent to that of a successful schoolmaster and a hard-working clergyman. Yet Lord Bramwell is told that he "is not, "perhaps, as familiar as some of us with places "where the minimum of resistance is ruthlessly "confronted with the maximum of temptation." He is invited to pledge himself to study the evidence which Archdeacon Farrar would pledge himself to produce. This is rather hard on one who has spoken from ripe experience on the subject in the House of Lords, and said that "twice the number of crimes of "violence are committed on [Saturday," and that "Saturday might be called pay-day, drink-"day, crime-day." On the immensity of the evil we are at one with Lord Bramwell and with Archdeacon Farrar alike; on the nature of the palliative or the possibility of proximate cure, we are not at one with the latest and loudest spokesman of his cause.

Reviews.

OXENHAM'S *SHORT STUDIES.**

This, though a book perfectly complete in itself, is a companion volume to *Short Studies in Ecclesiastical History and Biography*, by the same author, issued last year. It consists of forty-four short and very readable essays—pithy, pointed, and pertinent, all of which contain many wise remarks, considerable information concerning both past and present, much acute criticism, and several notable and attractive papers. They originally appeared in the *Saturday Review*—a serial rather destructive than constructive, but of late years somewhat more Conservative than of yore; and in their present form will be acceptable and welcome to many. Dealing with a variety of subjects both religious and ethical, these varying essays are, of course, of different importance and merit, though all are eminently readable. The book is one which may be taken up at any time, and excellent *pabulum* be found in it for reflection; for, though the papers are necessarily brief, they often deal with the matter in hand in a very masterly and comprehensive manner; and we venture to say that no one could read any of these essays without gaining much from their forcible and graceful sentences—in which, on the whole, very sound Christian and ethical principles are embodied and applied. There is a certain system in the selection of topics, giving to the volume in its entirety both order and coherence as well as unity; while vagueness, wordiness, and long-windedness, are one and all carefully eschewed.

As to details, we may point out that three of the ablest and most timely essays, Nos. 6, 7, and 8, deal with Cruelty. This is treated both as a natural instinct, and in its relation to civilisation; likewise in certain of its recent developments. We have seldom read anything more forcible, either as regards neglected facts of history, or much-needed warnings for the present. Essays Nos. 11 and 12 deal with Casuistry, a subject almost neglected at the present day, to the great loss both of principle and common-sense. As Mr. Oxenham pertinently remarks, and herein he sums up the point in dispute (if dispute there be), "If the Ten Com-"mandments are their own sufficient interpreters, "or if everybody's conscience is infallible, there is "no room for a science of Casuistry." In the second essay, which deals specially with Truthfulness and Lying, there are several considerations set forth which are full of interest and moment. Another able paper on "Plebification of Opinion" begins to deal with a subject of huge practical importance, for one great danger of the present day is the blotting out of the personal rights of the individual. Several acts of recent legislation have, under the miscalled "Liberals," and with the approbation of the Rabble, tended in this direction—one of which is the right of the father to the custody and education of his child; and another is the right of the publican to the property he has purchased and paid for. Another danger, furthermore, is the tyranny of fanaticism and bigotry; a third, the fond notion that the noisiest, and often the nastiest—specially if screaming females—should get a hearing and be allowed to carry their respective points, might find themselves triumphant. Here the author sums up tersely his varied contention, remarking thus:—"In proportion as the State is allowed to "tyrannise over its members, or the will of the "majority—that is, of the least intelligent portion "of the nation—to mould or to coerce the con-"victions of the individual citizen, is Society "approximating to a condition of unmoral, if not "immoral, stagnation, of which the best that can "be hoped is that it may end in a cataclysm."

We may note generally that a vast number of wise and witty sayings by the author—concisely expressed, and without superincumbent verbiage—are found in every essay; some of which, not likely to be soon forgotten, are remarkably telling. He invariably sums up his point ably. Several persons have to submit to due and deserved criticism, including that very superfine but somewhat selfish personage, Mr. Matthew Arnold. Dean Goulburn, Mr. Mallock, J. S. Mill, Mr. Swinburne, Carlyle, Dr. W. G. Ward, Max Müller, Pro-

* *Short Studies, Ethical and Religious.* By the Rev. H. N. Oxenham, M.A.—London: Chapman and Hall, 1885.

fessor Monier Williams, and many others are dealt with. There are numerous delicate thrusts and amusing criticisms, interesting personal anecdotes, acceptable revelations of literary life and labour, and often a clear and luminous exposition of Christian principles—applied to the subject under consideration, without undue obtrusion, but with much art and singular literary skill. Mr. Oxenham has written with great fairness and faithfulness on "The Standard of Heroism," and with no small power and impressiveness on "Perverted Sympathies." He does not read some portions of history as we read it. Charles I., Laud and Strafford, are not to him as they are to us, nor can we agree altogether in Mr. Gladstone's idea of Dean Hook's heroism (p. 154). In his latter days the Dean materially changed his opinions regarding the Tudor revolutionists, and would then scarcely have preached the horrible and revolting sermon on Mary Queen of Scots with which he favoured the University of Oxford from its public pulpit thirty years and more ago. Yet he had been sometimes bold. "Hear the Church," which so offended Royalty, cost him a bishopric, and he was often generous to the unpopular. What the *via media* was which he championed no one can tell.

In "Prudential Morality" Mr. Oxenham sifts the good corn from the chaff, and sets forth a most ably-put argument directed against certain modern "thinkers;" while in "Scientific Morality" we get a severe and scathing commentary on some wild and baseless modern theories—a commentary which is at once powerful and profound. These papers would bear amplification, and are exceedingly weighty and well worth reading. Certain criticisms (upon p. 229) on Sir James Stephen's recent disgraceful acknowledgment regarding religion are to be commended as faithful, so far as they go, but are not vigorous enough.

"The Law of Honour" is an exceedingly interesting historical and ethical dissertation, in which much information is embodied and many practical conclusions are drawn. With the author, we cannot at all agree in the accuracy of Bishop Stubbs's measurement of the age of chivalry—as inaccurate as it is palpably unjust. "Sweetness and Light" is the best essay in the book. Well planned, carefully written, and from a solid standing-point, it deals powerfully with the sickly sentimentalism and repulsive selfishness of mere culture and its cant, and gives Mr. Matthew Arnold some solid literary food for thought. An earnest Dissenting "tub-thumper" (as Mark Twain has it), is far more likely to quicken the moral nature of his open-eared hearers by rude words and rough eloquence, than all the barley-sugar utterances of mere simpering literary prigs are to benefit the gapers and gazers of society. The papers on "Scepticism" and the "Supernatural," following in due order, with a later one on "Witchcraft and "Spiritualism," are exceedingly attractive; while the concluding essays, "Christian Mysticism," "Religion and Patriotism," "Church and State," and "Ethics of Tyrannicide" serve to give a logical and literary completeness to the volume, which adds directly both to its charm and value. There are but a few quotations admitted, and still fewer footnotes sub-added—the essays being one and all so constructed as not to need either. But many of them contain so much well-put and thoroughly compressed pieces of information, with adroit criticism and sound conclusions, that the book itself is not one simply to read, but to preserve. It is a suitable companion to the author's other volume, of a somewhat higher type, and of even greater literary and philosophical merit. We commend it with sincere cordiality to all interested in the great subjects of which it treats.

NEW NOVELS.

*Not Drowned** is a clever story, if not altogether a pleasant one. The relations between Margaret Kirkward and her sailor husband are—if we once grant the possibility of their marriage, which is rather a stumblingblock for those who are swayed by a sense of the probabilities of life—cleverly described. William Beale would have been, without doubt, happier if he had married some one in his own rank of life, and his self-sacrifice when he endeavours to efface himself and leave his very unsuitable wife free to follow what he believes to be her natural bias, is touchingly described. But he ought not to have been so thoroughly blind to the true position in which he left his wife, who was and was not a widow. She might have been pardoned if she had accepted Mr. Fenways under the circumstances; for she could not have felt the same conviction which the reader feels, that William was "*Not Drowned.*" The story is supposed to be told by a schoolfellow of Margaret's, a Miss Eleanor Suaresbrook, who, having made her acquaintance at Mdme. Schnapps' Seminary for Young Ladies on Sydenham-hill, remains her faithful friend and companion through all the trials of her married and her supposed widowed life. The best part of the book is the character sketch of old Mrs. Beale, the mother of the ill-matched William. We venture to call him by that epithet, although in the end of the story we are left under a general impression that as "no longer a rude, unpolished "sailor, but an educated man, refined by sorrow "and reflection, he was better suited to be Mar-"garet's husband than at any previous stage of "their wedded life."

It is not the *Millionaire's Cousin*,† but the millionaire himself, who is the true hero of the novelette to which the former gives a name. In it we find described how the millionaire in question, Mr. John Hargrave, fell desperately in love with Miss Hildegarde Benson, the beautiful daughter of a vulgar-minded, matchmaking mother, and the sister of a still more vulgar-minded, matchmaking brother. How such a flower as Hildegarde herself came to blossom amid such hopeless weeds as the rest of the family it is difficult to conceive, and certainly her mother and brother are calculated to prove a sore incumbrance to him when at the last he succeeds in winning her affections—perhaps we ought to say in inducing her to acknowledge that he has won her affections; for it is pretty obvious from the commencement that Hildegarde is attracted by him, though prevented from confessing her love by having his wealth and the advantages of the match continually thrust upon her. None of the personages in the story are very new creations, but the story itself is pleasantly written. The action of the drama passes mainly at Algiers, though the *dénouement* is brought about by a journey on the Underground, and there are some admirable descriptions of Algerian life and scenery which are calculated to induce the reader to believe that it is mainly with a view of introducing them that the story has been written. However this may be, the story is pleasantly told and eminently readable, and, after all, the chief object of a novel is to be readable; so we must congratulate the Hon. Emily Lawless on having obtained a decided success.

* *Not Drowned.* By Anthony Bathe.—London: Chapman and Hall, Limited, 1885.

† *A Millionaire's Cousin.* By the Hon. Emily Lawless. In One Vol.—London: Macmillan and Co., 1885.

SOME REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

One great attraction of the *English Illustrated Magazine* for May is the character-sketch of Lord Wolseley which Mr. Archibald Forbes has contributed to Messrs. Macmillan's popular periodical. This is accompanied by an admirable engraving of its subject from a photograph, which gives an excellent presentment of the outward man, as the sketch of Mr. Forbes does of his character. Then follows a paper on Toledo, by Mr. John Lomas, which tells with much effect one of the quaint legends of the Imperial Castilian city, where seven hills look down on the Tagus as those of her Italian prototype do on the Tiber. Mr. Cornwall has supplied some picturesque illustrations of the city itself, which bear but remotely on the letterpress. The paper on Market Gardens is hardly so attractive either in letterpress or drawing, but Mr. Walter Crane has achieved a decided success in the present instalment of "The Sirens Three," with its wealth of decorative illustration. Fiction is a strong point in the magazine, and is well represented by the conclusion of Mr. Bret Harte's "Ship of 49," and by a further instalment of "A "Family Affair," in which poor Beatrice takes a very rash step, calculated to strike terror into the well-organised household of the Tabbies.

The *Magazine of Art* for the present month is an excellent specimen of an excellent periodical. Its main feature is a glorification of Mr. Burne Jones, and a graceful reproduction in facsimile from one of his drawings forms the frontispiece of the May number, while a portrait of the artist himself and engravings of his "Wheel of Fortune" and "Merlin and Vivien" illustrate Mr. Claude Phillips's appreciative criticism of an artist whose striking qualities and no less striking defects make him a notable figure in the Art history of the present day. We own that we do not ourselves care much for the "Merlin and Vivien," and the wizard himself is a somewhat ludicrous mixture of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Irving; but the facsimile of the drawing illustrative of the Song of Solomon, is of rare beauty and grace. Very different in tone is Mr. Furniss's happy but audacious "Infant Academy," after Sir Joshua, which is full of humour, and worthy of careful study. Another of the poems and pictures in which Mr. Allingham and Miss Havers join partnership is given this month, and the Swing Song is a favourable specimen, both of poet and artist. The other full-page engravings are "A "Study of Oaks at Playford," one of several effective illustrations to a really charming paper by Professor Colin on "East Suffolk Memories;" "A "Spanish Dance," from a picture by N. Sichel; and a somewhat thin "Ebb-tide on the Riviera," which is by no means so favourable a specimen of the engraver's skill. Far more effective are the admirable specimens of that skill which illustrate the papers on the "Book of Painters," and that entitled "From Gothic Glass to Renaissance," which is perhaps, as a whole, the most attractive of the many attractive contents of the present number.

The *Century* commences a new volume with the May number, and leads off with a graphic account of the New Orleans Exposition, characteristically illustrated. But a deeper interest is aroused by the continuation of the War Papers, which have proved so attractive that sixteen extra pages have been added to the present number in order to give room for the additional material dealing with that subject, without unduly compressing the articles treating of more peaceful themes. Among the latter are to be found the very original and characteristic pictures of Indian life by Mrs. Brush, continuations of the serials by Mr. Henry James and Mr. Howells, Mr. Appold's paper on Typical Dogs, with its profusion of canine illustrations, and the very interesting notes by a member of the relief expedition on "Greely at Cape Sabine." We are not so much attracted by what is held out to us as the great *pièce de résistance* of the present number, the paper on "Immortality and Modern Thought," in which Mr. Mungo gets out of his depth. We have not by any means enumerated all the contents of the May *Century*, but what we have given are sufficient to indicate their wide range. Still, it must be owned that it is not in this wide range, but within the narrower limits of the War Papers, that the main interest of the present number is to be found, and we are not inclined to grudge the extra space devoted to them or the profusion of illustrations bestowed upon them. General McClellan, whose portrait—a wonderful specimen of wood-engraving—forms the frontispiece to the number contributes a narrative of "The Peninsu-"lar Campaign," not that described by Napier, but the struggle between Confederates and Federals in May and June, 1862, of which the writer—commander of the Army of the Potomac—is so well qualified to speak.

St. Nicholas, which is for younger folks all and more than all that the *Century* is for their elders, continues to maintain that high level of excellence which has led us on more than one occasion to speak of it as one of the best, if not the best, magazine for young people ever published. There is, perhaps, not so much which is exceptionally good in the May number as in some of its predecessors, and we think it is a pity in a serial of this kind to have so many continuous stories. But "Alibazan" is very delightful, both in the way of rhyme and of drawing, and we are also much attracted by "The Brownies and the Spinning Wheel," "The "Children of the Cold," and "Animal Traps and "Trappers."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

Messrs. Blackwood and Sons have just issued, in a small and well-printed shilling volume, the series of admirable papers on *Reading and Recreation Rooms and Free Libraries* contributed by the able and indefatigable pen of Lady John Manners to our contemporary, the *Queen*. We have duly noticed each of these as they appeared, and many of our readers will now, we are sure, be glad to obtain and preserve them in a complete and handy form. The little book is dedicated, by special permission, to Her Majesty the Queen; and it is gratifying to know that Her Majesty has accorded this encouraging mark of her approval to so commendable an effort to promote the happiness of many thousands of her subjects.

An admirable volume of verse on the burning questions of the day is forthcoming from the pen of Mr. Savile Clarke, under the title of *The Modern Macbeth* (*Court Circular* Office). This sixpenny *brochure* deserves a world-wide circulation for the telling political criticisms which it conveys in vigorous and graceful verse. Quotation will be a better recommendation of Mr. Savile Clarke's stirring verses than any mere words of praise, and we give the lines he addresses to the murderer of General Gordon:—

What avails oratorical gesture,
As there in the Commons he stands?
There is blood, plain to see on his vesture,
And blood on his eloquent hands.
As Macbeth from the murder of Duncan,
Turned pale and could scarce draw a breath,
He is sated with slaughter, grown drunken
With bloodshed and death.

Lo! our bravest and best for his glory,
Have gone to the desert to die,
And he tells all the pitiful story,
With never a tear in his eye.
What do massacres mean to the master
Of phrases, what death and disgrace,
While he shirks the one crowning disaster,
Of losing his place?

Though the bones of our soldiers are scattered
On African sands far and wide,
Though the flower of our army is shattered,
He stands in the egotist's pride.
Unavailing our sighs and our sorrows,
The cup of disgrace we must fill,
That this man through the coming to-morrows,
May hold office still.

O! just Heaven, is there then no salvation,
Is England to fall like Khartoum,
Is the sun of this once mighty nation
To sink amid darkness and gloom?
"Whoso sheddeth man's blood," it is written,
O! Gladstone look down on thy dead,
For "By man,"—even as he has smitten,
"His blood shall be shed."

The following address to England enforces the lesson that it is to be hoped the English people have learned during the last five years:—

Mourn, England, for thy day of desolation,
Vainly the dreary horizon do we scan;
Can there be hope for the rescue of a nation
Bound to the chariot-wheels of such a man?

High swells his pride, and his spirit domineering
Makes puppets dance when his fingers pull the strings;
Lo! at his word comes Azrael appearing,
Breathless we hear the beating of his wings.

What boots it, then, that we band ourselves together,
What though we stand all in arms to save the realm,
How can we hope to escape the stress of weather,
With such a pilot for ever at the helm?

Wake! England, wake! see the Temple of Bellona
Opes wide its gates. To the far-encircling wave—
Cast overboard this procrastinating Jonah;
Thine is the Empire, and thine the task to save!

Notley's Commercial and School Bookkeeping (Beamrose and Co.) is a little volume of much practical utility, which, though originally intended only for educational purposes, is also adapted for small manufacturers and traders as well as for learners. The mysteries of double entry, so terrible to the non-commercial mind, lose much of their natural terror when the process of bookkeeping is so clearly explained as has been done by the compiler of this little handbook, suited not merely to the middle-class school, but also to the counting-house.

The Battle of the Standard (Rydal and Co.) is a little volume of vigorous verse, by William Alfred Gibbs, who is also the author of several other well-known and highly appreciated works which have attained a wide circulation. In the verses under notice we have a record of English courage as displayed in the stirring incidents which attended the Norman march through England. The story is admirably told, the descriptions being exceedingly vivid and picturesque, and the language forcible and refined. The fact that this work has already reached a fourth edition is evidence that its merits have been recognised by a wide circle of readers.

Correspondence.

BOOKS FOR THE SHIPPING.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—Now that public attention is drawn towards the protection of commerce, may I ask your readers to send their disused books and periodicals for the crews of British ships, to the Missions to Seamen, 11, Buckingham-street, Strand, London, W.C., in hampers, boxes, or sacks, carriage prepaid?

Seven thousand three hundred and eighty-nine ships sailed last year with boxes or bags of books and magazines, and 4,220 vessels with packets of reading in their forecastles, ladies very kindly making the bags of "Crash" large enough to take a *Graphic* or *Illustrated News*. But there are 38,000 British merchant ships, and the Missions to Seamen Chaplains are desirous of supplying many more crews.

May I add that wholesome reading is more and more appreciated by seamen, 42,387 of whom became total-abstaining members of the Missions to Seamen Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society during the last six years.

Yours faithfully,
WM. DAWSON,
Commander R.N., and Secretary.
The Missions to Seamen, 11, Buckingham-street, Strand, London, W.C.

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

The whole of General Gordon's journals are in the press, and will be published intact, with the exception of one or two passages which are of interest only to the family. Mr. Egmont Hake will edit them, with introduction, explanatory notes, and appendices. He has free access to all family papers and memoranda, Sir Henry Gordon giving him every facility. Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. are the publishers.

At the sale of the Earl of Jersey's library on Wednesday, a splendid Caxton was put up at £1,000, and was secured by a dealer for £1,950. It was a perfect copy in black letter of Sir Thomas Malory's translation of the *History of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*. Only one other copy is known, and that is imperfect, as it wants ten leaves. It is in Earl Spencer's library. A copy of Coverdale's Bible in black letter—the first Bible printed in English—fetched £680.

Saturday, the 16th inst., has been appointed for the private view of the summer exhibition of the Nineteenth Century Art Society, at the Conduit-street galleries, and the exhibition will be open to the public on Monday, the 18th.

Mrs. Burton writes from Trieste to the *Tablet* to draw attention to the following prophecy written by Nostradamus in 1566:—

Quand Georges Dieu crucifera,
Que Marc le ressuscitera,
Et que Saut Joan le portera,
La fin du monde arrivera.

In 1886 St. George comes on Good Friday; St. Mark, Easter Sunday; and St. John on Corpus Christi. The prophecy will thus be fulfilled as to conditions. Many, no doubt, will be curious to see whether it will also be fulfilled in fact.

Messrs. Cassell and Co. are preparing for issue a series of popular standard works which they will publish in monthly volumes under the title of *Cassell's Red Library*. The object will be to provide a representative collection of recreative works by leading English, Scotch, Irish, and American writers, well printed in clear type, and published at a price which will debar no reader from possessing them.

Messrs. Cassell and Co. will open their annual exhibition of original drawings in black and white at La Belle Sauvage-yard, early in June. Among the works exhibited will be the original drawings executed by Mr. Frederick Barnard for his *Character Sketches from Dickens*, published last autumn.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

The 117th annual exhibition which opened at Burlington House on Monday is larger than any of its predecessors, and is in point of merit somewhat above the average. To give space for the increased number of exhibits, three new rooms have been added. One, for the exhibition of Architectural Drawings, is in the south-east corner of the block. Two others, for Water Colours and for Black and White respectively, are in the south-west, opening out of the second gallery. In portraiture the exhibition is very strong, and there are more well-conceived pictures of dramatic incident, interesting in subject and artistically treated, than we have seen in any previous collection here. These are fairly distributed throughout the rooms, but several of the best are ranged in the first gallery. Here, occupying a central place, is the best picture that Mr. W. F. Yeames has produced for some years. It is entitled "Prisoners of War, 1803," the scene being a French seaport, and the prisoners two English midshipmen sitting on casks. One of them—a very young boy with a wounded hand—sits patiently, while the elder assumes an air of defiant indifference. A stern old soldier keeps guard over them, while a party of fishing women and children, who have just come upon the scene, regard them, some with simple curiosity, and others with sympathetic interest. The picture conveys a strong impression of reality, arising chiefly from the life-like appearance of the figures, and the natural and unexaggerated manner in which their various emotions are expressed. In a very large picture on the opposite wall, "The Sheepstealers," Mr. Briton Rivière has depicted a midnight marauder looking over a low wall at some horned sheep, who, disturbed by his approach, are gathering together in alarm. The attitude of the man, who is restraining the impetuosity of his accomplice, a large collie dog, seems a little overstrained, but the animals are drawn and painted with extraordinary skill and mastery. The steady moonlight that suffuses the scene and the moist mist on the hill-side are very truthfully given.

In commencing a round of the galleries the first picture to arrest attention is that of "The Gambler's Wife," by Mr. Marcus Stone, in which is evident all his accustomed refinement of style and completeness of workmanship. In the afternoon of a summer day a lady of the last century is sitting under a tree, while, on the lawn beyond, her husband, a young squire, is playing at cards with a party of his convivial friends. This distant group is altogether excellent, and the picture is altogether finely drawn. H. Stacy Marks has painted with his customary completeness "A Good Story," in which five old-fashioned gentlemen, in a condition of after-dinner conviviality, are seated at a table smoking pipes, round a punch-bowl, in a panelled room, while the chairman at the end of the table soberly tells some story which excites considerable amusement. As a piece of character painting this is simply unsurpassable, the spectator feeling perforce inclined to laugh with the rest, although he has no idea whatever of the tenor of the droll story which is being narrated. Mr. J. E. Hodgson is seen to great advantage in a large upright picture, "Don Quixote and the Galley Slaves." The figure of Sancho Panza does not strike us as a good realisation of the character; but the knight himself and the ragged ruffians who are preparing to stone him are excellent. Frank Dicksee's "Chivalry" represents a lady in a blue dress, who is tied to a tree, and is being rescued from her persecutors by a gallant armour-clad knight who has slain his antagonist. The subject belongs to the romantic period in the history of arms, and Mr. Dicksee's treatment of it is masterly and polished. It is fairly effective in composition, and has the valuable merit of strong characterisation. Val Prinsep contributes a subject called "Afternoon Gossip on the Banks of the Ganges, at the Cheo Sâti Ghat, Benares," which is probably true to fact as regards the costumes and the local features of scene, but it is garlish in colour and coarsely handled. Close to this, as if to contrast bright pigments with quiet greys, is placed "Our Playground," a party of girls skipping on the Chelsea Embankment, by Fred Brown, who has given a great deal of life and naturalness of action to the children. "Her First Visit" is the title given by Robert Barnes to a timid little girl who is being ushered into a drawing-room by a servant. In In Edwin Long's three-quarter length of a Phœnician lady, "Gunga," much of the work is loosely handled. Close by is another of Briton Rivière's four paintings. It is called "After Naseby"—a young fair-haired girl, dressed in black, buries her face in her arms in an attitude of deep sorrow, while a couple of King Charles spaniels look up at her sympathetically as if inquiring the cause of her grief. These spaniels are painted with Mr. Rivière's unsurpassable skill, and lend a charm to the composition, which is broad and open, while the distribution of light is effectively managed. A large canvas at the end of the room presents a busy scene of "Quarrymen at Purbeck," by Henry T. Wells. The men are hard at work, and the bright, sunny aspect gives light and life to the subject, which is treated with consummate skill. Vicat Cole's "Iffley Mill"—a stormy day, the tall poplars bending before the wind, the water in the foreground disturbed—is one of the best landscapes in the Academy, and will find innumerable admirers for its marvellous natural fidelity and force.

The third gallery contains an unusually large number of important examples by the leading Academicians. Foremost amongst these are Frederick Goodall, W. Q. Orchardson, Sir F. Leighton (the President), W. P. Frith, James Sant, J. E. Millais, W. W. Ouless, Frank Holl, L. Alma-Tadema, Philip H. Calderon, and Sir John Gilbert, who each contribute high-class examples of their respective handicraft. F. Goodall's unnamed painting of the infant Jesus (165), a baby-boy of sturdy limbs kicking up his heels on the floor, with the Spirit of God descending like a dove. The great beauty of this work consists in the admirable foreshortening of the child, whose rounded proportions seem to stand out from the canvas. Mr. Orchardson's large picture, "The Salon of Madame Récamier," occupies the central place at the end of the large gallery. As it is not only excellent as a work of art, but very interesting in subject, this is likely to prove one of the attractive works of the year. Many of the most interesting figures of Parisian society in the early days of the First Empire are among the assembled guests. Lucien Bonaparte, Bernadotte, Fouché, and the Duc de Montmorency are prominently placed, while a little behind are Brillat Savarin, Mdme. de Staël, Baron Gérard, and Canova. All these have been derived from authentic portraits, and the picture has accordingly great historic value. Saint Beuve says that Mdme. Récamier listened "avec séduction," and she is here seen gracefully reclining on a couch, and listening to those about her with a complacent smile on her lovely face. The figures are all life-like, and, as they are easy and unconstrained in movement and naturally grouped, the picture impresses the spectator with a sense of reality. Its artistic merits are very great; they include harmony of composition, skilful distribution of light and shade, and refined beauty of colour. Close by is "John Knox at Holyrood." It is related that Knox, after leaving Queen Mary in rage and tears from his reproaches, passed through the ante-chamber, and there upbraided the ladies of the Court who were engaged in playing the ancient form of the game of kiss-in-the-ring. This is the moment which the painter has selected for his treatment, Knox standing on the right of the spectator and firing off his parting shot. There is no real interest in the incident, and the preacher's attitude and expression are void of power. One of J. C. Hook's best contributions is "The Close of the Day." Frank Holl's large full-length of "Mr. Wilson Barrett as Hamlet" is a fine portrait, thoroughly lifelike; and so is the same artist's portrait—also a colossal canvas—of "Viscount Hampden as Speaker of the House of Commons." This portrait has been presented by members of the House to Viscountess Hampden. J. E. Millais's most important contribution is called "The Ruling Passion." It represents an elderly gentleman lying on a couch and wrapped in blankets, surrounded by several children, examining critically a stuffed bird of rare variety, and on the blanket are other varieties of birds of brilliant plumage. He is evidently an enthusiastic ornithologist, and cannot in his hours of sickness refrain from his studies. The children are firmly modelled and robust, and take an interest in the enthusiast's disquisition. The head of the old man, too, is a fine study. E. Long's large figure subject called "Love's Labour's Lost" and Briton Rivière's large picture "Væ Victis" deserve, and will receive, the attention of artists and connoisseurs. The former is not unlike other Eastern subjects by Mr. Long, and would be a fitting companion to "The Gods and their Makers." The latter represents a fierce fight on mountain heights between a golden eagle and a wolf, the struggle being for a little white kid that the wolf has under his paw. It is a powerful work, full of intricate draughtsmanship and fine colour. "Challenged," by John Pettie, is a single figure of a young gentleman who stands erect in his dressing gown holding in his hand a letter containing a challenge which has just been handed to him by a messenger who is seen departing along the passage opening to the apartment. The young gentleman seems bewildered, and clearly has no distinct recollection of his doings over night. "A Standard-bearer," by Sir John Gilbert, is a capital piece of colour, albeit a trifle black in the shadows. In Alma Tadema's picture, "A Reading from Homer," a picture which will be a great attraction to all visitors, we see a bevy of ladies admirably grouped in a terrace of white marble, the surface of which is represented with matchless fidelity. J. E. Millais' "Lady Peggy Primrose"—the little daughter of Lord and Lady Rosebery—a child standing full length, dressed in white with pink sash, flanks one side of Mr. Alma Tadema's picture, while on the other side is "The Lady Sibyl Primrose," a somewhat similar child, by Sir Frederick Leighton; an opportunity is thus given to compare the work of the two artists, and the difference will be found rather in the method of treatment than in the qualities of art, for both are charming productions. Mr. Millais gains in strength by firm impasto, while the President's more tender decorative treatment seems best adapted to child-life.

In the fourth gallery, nearly opposite the entrance, Sir F. Leighton's "Music"—Greek youths and maidens, some playing the lyre, some singing, and others listening, a frieze-like composition—is designed and painted with the utmost elaboration and regard to effect. Just below it Sir Frederick exhibits an idealised portrait of a beautiful lady; it is called "Phœbe."

Passing on to the next gallery, we notice F. Goodall's pathetic treatment of "Gordon's Last Messenger"—an Arab who, mounted upon a camel, is careering across the desert at wild speed. It is night; the violet sky is but thinly studded with silver stars. "The air is full of farewells to the dying and mournings for the dead." A terrible journey, lonesome and dreary, has this last messenger, traversing the sandy wilderness, encumbered here and there with the carcases of dead camels, while the hyena flees before him, and birds of prey follow in his wake. There is a thoroughly characteristic expression of vigilance and earnestness in the face of this solitary rider; the figure of the camel, moving in wide and rapid strides, is full of life and action. Luke Fildes has painted his "Venetians" with the brilliancy of Van Haanen or Eugene de Blaas. "The First Prince of Wales" is the title given by P. R. Morris to his important picture representing Edward I. at Carnarvon presenting his infant son, whom he cradles in his shield, to the Welsh chieftains, while with his right hand he holds the cross of his sword-hilt aloft and calls upon them to swear allegiance. Edward Armitage contributes a large canvas, "After the Arena," in which the figures are of heroic porportions. The body of a Christian martyr, who has been killed in the arena, is being lowered by ropes through an aperture to his grief-stricken relatives and friends below, who are waiting to receive it. The body is strongly lighted by rays coming through the opening, while the background is in darkness indicative of gloom. Mr. John Brett contributes a very fine picture, "The Norman Archipelago." Mr. Pettie has two pictures, suggested by scenes in *The School for Scandal*. In one we see Charles Surface selling his ancestors. In the dining-room, turned for the nonce into an auction-room, there are four persons gathered—Sir Oliver, a spy upon Charles's conduct; Moses, who is behind him; Careless, who officiates as auctioneer; and the amiable prodigal himself. The scene is conceived with great spirit; it is executed with great truth of characterisation, and with something of a colourist's gift. In the other, the moment chosen is that moment of the quarrel scene in which the gay, provoking Lady Teazle seizes the occasion of her smartest retort to her lord. "Zounds! madam, you had no taste when you married me." "That's very true, indeed, Sir Peter, and having once married you, I own I should never pretend to taste any more." There are several other pictures among the collection deserving of special mention, and to these we may refer on another occasion.

THE PRIMATIAL CROSS OF CANTERBURY.

We mentioned briefly last week the presentation of a magnificent Cross to the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Library of Lambeth Palace—the gift of the Province of Canterbury. The work was executed by Messrs. Hardman, of Birmingham, from the designs of Messrs. Bodley and Garner. It appears that there was a decided and rather unusual type of cross in use among the English Archbishops—at least, from the time of Chichele downwards—a modification of a Maltese cross, ornamented and arranged in various ways at different periods, but still showing the same type and form. The present cross has therefore been designed on this model, and, in order to give increased richness to the composition, two tiers of statuettes, under elaborate canopies, have been introduced above the knop and beneath the short truncated spire which supports the base, from which springs the cross itself. The statues themselves represent various saints, connected either with the See of Canterbury or with those of Lincoln and Truro, in both of which dioceses the Primate worked so successfully and took such a deep interest. In the lower tier of niches are placed the statues of the following saints, under elaborate canopies:—St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John, St. Peter, and St. Paul. Immediately above rises a second coronet of tabernacle work, containing the figures of St. Augustine, the Apostle of the English, and first Archbishop of Canterbury; St. Vergilius, Archbishop of Arles, from whom St. Augustine received Episcopal consecration; St. Theodore of Tarsus, seventh Archbishop of Canterbury; St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, builder of the Cathedral; St. Piran, or Kyeran, and St. Petroc, missionaries to Cornwall. The cross itself glitters with pearls, diamonds, and sapphires. Delicately engraved representations of the *Agnus Dei* and the Pelican in her piety form the central subjects on either side of the cross. The entire design is hexagon in plan, and the jewels reappear on two sides of the hexagon, below the tiers of statues, in order to recall the colouring of the cross. An alternative knop is supplied to replace the tabernacle-work on less solemn occasions. The staff itself is treated spirally, and gradually diminishes in size towards the ferrule at the bottom. It is divided in compartments by bosses, enriched with minutely worked roses and ornamental engraving. Its height is upwards of six feet; its material is silver gilt, and its cost, including the value of the jewels, about £700. It is announced that children and working-men, and especially many belonging to the Church of England Working Men's Society, have come forward to make their offerings, and that the jewels given by them adorned the pelican on the reverse side of the cross; also that the stone placed in pious memory of St. Augustine, and to commemorate the labours of St. Augustine and the missionary work of the college bearing his name, and the jewels round the *Agnus Dei*, are gifts of two laymen (understood to be Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Beresford-Hope) and Dr. Finch.

The Archbishop, in the course of his reply to the deputation of donors, spoke as follows:—"You know that an early father said that when he was young there were chalices of wood but the priests were of gold, whereas now that he was growing old the priests were of wood though the chalices were gold. When I look at this great symbol of my office, which is worthy to be compared with Excalibur itself, all glistening

with jacinth-work
Of subtlest jewelry—

I almost tremble with fear that so glorious a thing should be placed in hands that are not worthy to bear it. Who is worthy to bear such a staff as this? We want to have back Augustine himself, who (as he followed his high silver cross), we read, was higher by the head and shoulders than his own company or the King and his soldiers. We want one whose moral stature should be that of the great man who first sat in the marble chair, or in the chair which that marble chair so worthily represents, at Canterbury. When I come to inquire I find that the history of the See tells me, in no doubtful language, what this cross should mean to me—what it was understood to mean in the past. I find that in the year 1294 Archbishop Winchelsey entered Canterbury for the first time, and that he was met at the city gate by the Chapter; that he bowed his knee upon the ground; and that the head of the Chapter, presenting him with the archiepiscopal cross, bade him 'manfully to perform his duty in governing the Church and in maintaining her rights.' With these words he placed the cross in Winchelsey's hands. In 1381 Archbishop Courtenay was presented with his cross by a deputation from the Chapter in Lambeth Chapel, and these were the noble words which the head of the Chapter said—'I come as ambassador from the King of kings, who enjoins thee to undertake the government of this church of Canterbury, to love it and protect it. I here present thee with the standard of the King of kings, to be borne by thee and before thee.' Arundel received his cross in Westminster Abbey before the King and the chief nobles of the land; Morton had it at the knighting of Henry; Chichele when he revisited his native place, Higham Ferrers. On all these occasions the cross was borne by the Bishop of Rochester, whose special office this was. The history of the cross of Canterbury grows more striking still as we approach our own times. Warham, whose noble portrait by Holbein still hangs on the walls of the palace where he placed it—Warham, the patron of Erasmus in his first researches into the true text of the Greek Testament—Warham, the President of that Convocation which swept away like a cobweb the evil usurpations of the See of Rome—Warham, who after administering for so many years the enormous revenues of the See, the wealth of which was second only to those of the King, asked as he lay dying how much was left of the revenues which he had dispensed so grandly upon all great and charitable objects, including the work of Erasmus himself. He was answered that there was just £30, and he said it was enough to bury him, and that was all he desired. In a few minutes after that he died, and it is expressly said that his cross was brought and laid in his hand, just as we see it on his tomb at Canterbury Cathedral, where the selfsame cross now lies. Then there comes a more touching scene. In 1556 Cranmer stood arrayed in imitation vestments that he might be degraded. When the robes were taken off him he said he had long since done with gear of that kind; but when his weeping Judge, Thirlby, Bishop of Ely, who so hated his office, told him that he must also take away his cross, Cranmer uttered these memorable words:—'I appeal to the next General Council.' That is an appeal which is still to be heard and which I am persuaded will one day be heard. The Prolocutor stated that this cross follows the exact pattern of the ancient crosses of Canterbury, so far as it can be ascertained; and the moment I saw it I remembered that it was the very pattern of the cross that is figured upon the outside of the original parchment record in this library, which so minutely details the steps that were taken at the consecration of Archbishop Parker. So I think there is matter enough to answer my question—What does this cross mean, and what does it mean to me? Brought by the Chapter to Canterbury, to Westminster, or to Lambeth it came with a charge; and it comes to me with a charge to-day. To those in the thirteenth century it came with a charge of manful government and manful defence of the Church's rights. To those of the fourteenth century it came with the sweet injunction to govern, to love, and to protect the church of Canterbury; and whatever else I may do, I can promise you, Mr. Dean, that I will at least love the church of Canterbury. It came, moreover, with those grand words that the Archbishop was to look upon it as the standard of the King of kings. Then in the sixteenth century its meaning, twice fulfilled, was that it was the badge of freedom—that freedom of the Church of England, which was claimed in the memorable words of Magna Charta—'The Church of England shall be free.' The first fulfilment was when Warham signed that Act of Convocation which repudiated and dispelled for ever the power of the Pope. The second was found in Cranmer's certainty that the quarrel of the Church of England against the Italian Pontiff was the quarrel of the whole Church of God. And now what am I to join to these meanings to-day? Surely this—To-morrow the Bishops of the Province and the Prolocutor are with me to receive the new Revised Version of the Bible. What Warham and Cranmer and Parker in their day laboured to bring to perfection has now been subjected to all the light that scientific criticism could throw upon the true meaning of every word of Holy Scripture. Mr. Prolocutor, my Lords, ladies, and gentlemen, I would not change for any of those great men's associations with their crosses, the associations which will be connected with this. The ceremony of this evening, and the far greater ceremony of to-morrow, will live in all our hearts, and will be connected with the thought of this cross, which is the Standard of the King of kings, the great sign of the Word of God, who rides forth conquering and to conquer. My loving friends, and loyal children of the See of Canterbury, 'Thanks' is a word that dies upon the ear, and seems no fitting answer to the splendid permanence of this gift. It is a strange thought that long after we and our children and our children's children are gone, this cross will live on in untarnished splendour; will bridge over great space and great time, and will remind those who come after of the truths of which it is the symbol. I do then most reverently and most heartily thank you for the great gift which you have bestowed upon the See of Canterbury; and I think myself happy that in my time it should have come to the See.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. G. W. Anstiss, Vicar of Ivybridge, to be Rural Dean of Plympton.

Rev. T. C. Barker, Vicar of Spelsbury, to Vicarage of Carleton, Skipton.

Rev. W. C. Bourchier, to be Chaplain in Her Majesty's Fleet.

Rev. J. Bradshaw, to Rectory of Mursley, Bucks. Patron, Mr. William Selby Lowndes, of Whaddon Hall and Winslow Hall, Bucks.

Rev. C. C. De Jersey, Curate of Lymington, to Vicarage of St. Matthew Cobo, Guernsey.

Rev. A. B. Donaldson, to be Canon and Precentor of Truro Cathedral.

Rev. D. P. J. Evans, Vicar of St. Peter's, Carmarthen, to Rectory of Lampeter Velfrey, Pembrokeshire. Patron, the Bishop of St. David's.

Rev. C. W. C. Finzel, to Vicarage of Woolfardisworthy, near Bideford, N. Devon.

Rev. H. Geare, to be Organising Secretary of the S.P.G. for the Dioceses of Gloucester and Bristol and Hereford.

Rev. G. J. B. Hamilton, to Rectory of Wistanton. Patron, Mr. Edward Walthall Delves Broughton, of Wistanton.

Rev. S. Holland, Vicar of Askham, to Vicarage of St. James's, Dudley.

Rev. D. D. Mackinnon, to be Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Kent.

Rev. M. C. Probyn, late Curate of Cossington, to Vicarage of Chaceley. Patron, the Vicar of Longdon.

Rev. E. J. Reeve, Vicar of St. Peter's, Stockport, to Rectory of St. Alban's, Cheetwood, Manchester. Patron, the Dean of Manchester.

Rev. C. H. Rogers, Vicar of Little Dunmow and Senior Assistant Master of Felsted School, to Vicarage of Broxted.

Rev. C. Smith, Curate of Willoughby, to Vicarage of Marton. Patron, the Rev. C. E. A. McComas, M.A., LL.B.

Rev. C. C. Southey, Vicar of St. James's, Dudley, to Vicarage of Askham.

Rev. B. Thomas, Vicarage of Llankefn, to Rectory of Loveston-with-Yerbeston, Pembrokeshire. Patron, the Baron de Rutzen.

Rev. R. C. Thomas, to be Perpetual Curate of Wootton, Berks. Patron, Mr. Robert Cutlar Fergusson, of Craigdarrock, Dumfriesshire.

Rev. V. G. Tonge, to Rectory of Brattleby, near Lincoln.

Rev. D. N. Yonge, to Vicarage of Boreham. Patron, the Bishop of St. Albans.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF LONDON.—Revs. J. D. Bailey, to All Saints', Margaret-street; W. B. Green and A. O'B. Brandon, to St. Mark's, Dalston; H. S. Brown, to Holy Trinity, Hoxton; A. R. Edington, to Allhallows', East India Dock; W. Flower, to Twickenham; R. H. Hawker, to St. John's, Clerkenwell; S. S. Herington, to St. Paul's, Knightsbridge; Q. S. Roughton, to Hampton: G. J. Tuck, to Holy Trinity, Gray's-inn-road.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF CHESTER.—Revs. Charles James Bradshaw, M.A., to St. Michael's, Macclesfield; William Ding, to Barthomley.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.—Revs. William Devenish, B.A., to Holy Trinity, Parr Mount; Arthur Neville Halpin, M.A., to Christ Church, Eccleston.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF LLANDAFF.—Rev. Arthur Rolls Price, B.A., to Aberdare.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.—Rev. Edward Richards, to St. John's, Longsight.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF NORWICH.—Revs. Edmund Bellman, B.A., to St. Michael at Plea, Norwich; George Appleby Cuxson, M.A., to Gislingham.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.—Rev. John William Lewis, B.A., to Bermondsey.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ST. DAVID'S.—Revs. Thomas Phillips Lewis, B.A., to Llandilo, Talyboat; John Thomas, to Hay, Brecknock.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY.—Revs. William Morgan Stoate, B.A., to Cattistock; Samuel Vos-per-Thomas, to West Parley.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER.—Revs. William Richard Hartwright, to Solihull; Charles Jarvis Taylor, M.A., to Hanbury; Frederick Hubert Ward, B.A., to St. Jude's, Birmingham.

OBITUARY.

April 29, at Ufton Rectory, the Rev. George Frederick Clark, M.A., for twenty-five years Rector of the parish, aged 59 years.

April 30, at the Master's Lodge, Charterhouse, E.C., the Rev. George Currey, Master of the Charterhouse, and Prebendary of St. Paul's, aged 69.

April 30, the Rev. Jordan Roquette-Palmer Palmer, M.A. Oxon., late Chaplain to the Royal Asylum of St. Anne's Society, Streatham-hill, aged 56.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The consecration of the Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, for the see of Brisbane, has been definitely fixed for St. Barnabas's Day (June 11th).

Dr. Henderson, the Dean of Carlisle, has recovered from his recent accident, and has again entered upon his duties.

On Wednesday the doctors reported of Canon Wilberforce that he "has suffered during the day from the effects of a severe recurrence of feverish symptoms."

The enthronement of Dr. Bickersteth as the sixty-second Bishop of Exeter, took place in the Cathedral on Thursday morning in the presence of a very large assembly of clergy and laity. The Bishop, who had been staying with the Archdeacon of Exeter, was met, according to ancient custom, on the site of the old east gate of the city by the civic authorities, and a

procession was formed, and was joined at the Guildhall by bodies representing the various public bodies of the town, by whom the Bishop was escorted to Broadgate, the main entrance to the Cathedral Close, whence the Dean and the other ecclesiastical dignitaries accompanied his Lordship to the Cathedral, where the Bishop was enthroned, and where he afterwards preached.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has consented to become a patron of the Church Parochial Mission Society, thus occupying the position so long held by his respected predecessor, Archbishop Tait.

The Archbishop of Canterbury on Thursday opened the All Saints Boys' Orphanage erected on Morden Hill, Lewisham, the foundation stone of which was laid last year by the Princess Christian. Amongst those present were the Marchioness of Salisbury, the Marchioness of Abergavenny, the Countess of Pembroke, Lady Cottenham, the Hon. Miss Rennie, and the Ladies Legge. The object of the orphanage is to train up boys who are admitted without the cost of election to useful employments, whilst boys who are in situations may use it as a lodging.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has fixed his Primary Visitation for the month of September. The visitation will begin at Canterbury, and his Grace will follow the example of his predecessor by devoting two days to that part of his diocese.

The Bishop of Truro has conferred a canonry, coupled with the precentorship of Truro Cathedral, on the Rev. Augustus Blair Donaldson, M.A., Oxon.

A handsome Shakespeare memorial window, which has been put in the chancel of Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-on-Avon, at the exclusive cost of American visitors to the poet's tomb, was publicly unveiled on Tuesday by Mr. Howard Potter, of New York, acting on behalf of the American Minister, in the presence of a numerous and distinguished company.

The Hon. and Rev. F. G. Pelham, M.A., Rector of Lambeth, has just bought the goodwill of a beer-shop, the Sun, in Lambeth-walk, and has closed the premises. Mr. Pelham, who is an enthusiastic abstainer, means to exert all his influence to prevent another house being opened in its place.

The Bishop of Nassau is expected in England towards the end of the month. He has been obliged to resign his see, as the climate has proved injurious to the health of Mrs. Cramer Roberts, and she is forbidden by her medical advisers in London to return to the Bahamas. At the request of the Diocesan Council the Bishop has consented to retain his office until the consecration of his successor, unless in the meanwhile he should be appointed to another charge.

Canon Gregory writes to a contemporary :—"I venture to express my surprise at the words used in the Northern Convocation by the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Manchester relative to the action of the late Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of London respecting ritual prosecutions. It is notorious that in the year 1881 a prosecution of Mr. Bell Cox was threatened ; and I have good reason for saying that if it had not been for the action of the late Archbishop of Canterbury such prosecution would have been proceeded with."

The Rev. John Patrick Eden, rector of Sedgefield, county Durham, and Honorary Canon of Durham, died on Tuesday, at Sedgefield Rectory, in his 72nd year. Mr. Eden graduated at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1836, and was ordained in 1836. Having held for a short time the curacy of Gillingham, Dorset, he was instituted in 1840 to the incumbency of Coundon, in the diocese of Durham, which he held till 1844, when he was appointed to the incumbency of St. Andrew's, Bishop Auckland. He held the rectory of Bishopwearmouth from 1848 till 1864, since which date he has been rector of Sedgefield. Mr. Eden was a rural dean from 1854 till 1871, was Proctor for the Archdeacon of Durham in 1865, and re-elected in 1868 and 1874, and he had been an Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral since 1847. The living of Sedgefield, which is of the annual value of £1,800, is in the gift of the Bishop of Durham.

The body of Dr. Currey, the late master of the Charterhouse, was removed on Wednesday morning to the chapel in the Charterhouse, where it was received by the Rev. Henry Vincent Le Bas, the preacher, and the Rev. Dr. Haig Brown, headmaster. The mourners included the Rev. T. W. and Mrs. Gibson, and Mr. and Mrs. Way (sons-in-law and daughters), the Bishop of Hereford, the Bishop of Carlisle, Messrs. J. Irvine, F. Girdlestone, and H. C. Malkin (representing the Charterhouse School), Prebendary Tucker and Mr. W. E. Kempe (representing the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel), and the Rev. Canon M'Clure (representing the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), Canon Gregory, Prebendary R. Baker (headmaster of Merchant Taylors), Dr. Dyne (headmaster of Highgate), Dr. Wace (principal of King's College), and Prebendaries Humphry and Whittington represented St. Paul's Cathedral ; and there were also present many friends of Dr. Currey and some thirty of the old brethren. The first portion of the Funeral Service was read at the Charterhouse, and the body was afterwards conveyed to Highgate Cemetery, where the interment took place.

A considerable addition has lately been made to the memorial of the 13th (the Somersetshire) Regiment in the north transept of Wells Cathedral, in the shape of a rich canopy, designed by Mr. Edmund Ferrey, F.S.A. The expense has been borne by General Lord Mark Kerr, the colonel of the regiment.

A tablet, erected in the south transept as a memorial to the late Dean Edwardes, was last week unveiled at Bangor Cathedral. The Dean and Chapter have acceded to the request of Mrs. Symes, who presented the reredos, to erect a memorial screen in the chancel, and as the result of the public subscription which was opened after his death the foundation of a scholarship at the University College for North Wales, in which he evinced a most active interest, has been determined upon.

An interesting conference has been held between the head teachers of the several high schools for girls belonging to the Church Schools Company and members of the Executive Council, on the best methods of giving religious instruction and on other matters connected with efficient teaching. The gathering was preceded by Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Haverstock-hill, and the general arrangements were made and hospitality kindly provided by Miss Buss, one of the council and head of the large Camden Schools, which all were invited to visit on the occasion. Amongst others who thus had the privilege of conferring together besides the mistresses were Miss Dorothea Beale, Miss Helen Gladstone, Miss Soames, Archdeacons Burney and Emery, Canons Cromwell and Daniel, Prebendary Whittington, the Rev. A. Buss, and Mr. W. D. Grant (secretary to the company).

The following are the preachers appointed at the evening services at St. Paul's Cathedral for the present month :—May 10, the Rev. E. F. Ridgeway, incumbent of St. Mary's, Glasgow ; 17th, the Rev. E. Steele, vicar of St. Neot's, Cornwall ; 24th, the Rev. A. L. Moore, Fellow of St. John's, Oxford ; 31st, the Rev. E. C. Brace, incumbent of St. Paul's, Wimbledon. The Rev. Canon Scott Holland will occupy the pulpit on Sunday afternoons. On the 14th (Ascension Day), morning (10.30), the Rev. L. Gilbertson ; afternoon (3.15), the Rev. Prebendary Baker ; evening (7), the Rev. J. Storrs.

The preachers in Westminster Abbey for the month of May are as follows :—10th, morning, the Dean ; evening, the Rev. Dr. Pigou, vicar of Halifax ; 17th, morning, Canon Prothero ; afternoon, Bishop Hellmuth ; evening, the Rev. W. T. T. Webber, Bishop-designate of Brisbane ; 24th, morning, the Dean ; evening, the Rev. Canon Fleming ; 31st, morning, the Rev. F. K. Harford ; evening, the Rev. Canon Curteis, of Lichfield. Canon Prothero will preach on Sunday afternoons.

The annual meeting of the Christian Evidence Society will be held at the Polytechnic Young Men's Christian Institute, 309, Regent-street, W., on Wednesday next, at 2.30 p.m., his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury in the chair. The speakers will include the Earl of Carnarvon, Samuel Smith, Esq., M.P., the Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor, D.D., Rev. Prebendary Anderson, B.D., Rev. J. A. Rentoul, B.A., LL.D., Rev. J. Jackson Wray, and others.

The report and accounts of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty were issued on Thursday as a Parliamentary paper. The grants awarded in the year 1884 amounted to £17,800, and the benefactions attracted thereby were of the value of £21,157 14s. 6d. The Governors have been enabled to make grants in respect of 76 applications, and for special reasons have made a second grant to nine, and a third grant to two of them. The grants were in respect of 18 livings not exceeding £100 per annum, 37 over £100 and not exceeding £150, 20 over £150 and not exceeding £175, and one over £175 and not exceeding £200. The amount received from first fruits and tenths, after deducting the expenses in respect of collection, management, and distribution, was a net sum of £13,858 8s. 9d. This sum, increased by the surplus of the general revenue of £5,699 9s. 8d., shows the total sum available for distribution by the Governors in the year 1885 to be £19,557 18s. 5d. The Governors have outstanding on mortgages of benefices the sum of £1,088,836 8s. 4d., lent for residence houses and other purposes, in pursuance of various Acts of Parliament. Applications for loans continue to be made, but they have been less in number and smaller in amount than in 1883. The trust funds held by the Governors amount to a capital sum of £4,398,519, and comprise nearly 7,000 open accounts. These are managed and the interest remitted, free of cost, to the beneficiaries. Taking the Governors' receipts and payments as a whole, the expense of management for the year 1884 has been approximately £1 4s. per cent.

The Bishop of Durham has arranged to open the Missions to Seamen Church and Institute at South Shields, on Monday in Whitsun week. His lordship laid the foundation stone, to the Glory of God and for "the use of the seafaring classes only," last October. The building, which has cost about £3,500, is situated close to the shipping offices where crews are engaged and paid off, and consists of a lofty hall, surmounted by a well-appointed church which will be duly licensed for divine worship. The Missions to Seamen finds that in these dual edifices the Institute below is invaluable as a feeder to the Church overhead. We understand that £500 remains to be raised to clear the building of debt. The Tyne Mission Ship will be returned by the Missions to Seamen to the Admiralty after nineteen years' good service as a church-ship for seamen ; but the boats will be retained to carry the Chaplain from vessel to vessel on the river.

Convocation.

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

UPPER HOUSE.—FRIDAY.

The Bishops met in the board-room of Queen Anne's Bounty-office—the Primate occupying the chair.

The Bishop of WINCHESTER presented a report respecting the case of "Merriman v. Williams," in relation to the South African Church, and the report expressed the opinion of the committee that the Church of South Africa was identical in faith and doctrine with the Church of England.

After some conversation the House agreed that the report should be printed and should be considered at the next meeting.

The vote of thanks of the Lower House to the revisers of the Old Testament for their "unwearied labours and singular diligence" for so many years was brought before the Bishops, and was accepted by them in a unanimous concurrence with the vote.

The protest of Archdeacon Hobhouse, of Bodmin, against the Commissioners giving parcels of land for open recreation spaces in the suburbs of London, a protest drawn up as a *gravamen* and signed by about forty members of the Lower House, was presented and read. The *gravamen* declared that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were only the trustees of the Church, and should consider first the lacks of the clergy before the physical wants of Londoners.

The ARCHBISHOP defended the action of the Commissioners in offering to make arrangements for the handing over of open spaces for the dwellers in this the greatest city in the world. He pointed out that part of the value of the lands would be paid for by the City Corporation, and that the increased value of the lands which would be let for building would be greatly enhanced, so that the loss in value would not be so great as was stated in the *gravamen*. Moreover, he insisted that it was right that the Church should endeavour by all means in its power to improve the physical, moral, and social condition of the people, and this action could be taken in no better way than in offering the people the means of enjoying open spaces.

The Bishop of LONDON also defended the action of the Commissioners, who, he said, in offering to afford the means of these spaces at Highgate-woods and elsewhere being acquired for open spaces had only acted the part as landowners which the Church pressed upon other landowners in providing for the healthful recreation of the people.

The Bishop of CHICHESTER expressed himself as delighted to hear the views expressed by the two Prelates, and hoped that the like action would be extended to the people of Chichester, who had lost a recreation ground taken by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The House then adjourned until July.

LOWER HOUSE.—FRIDAY.

The members of the Lower House reassembled at the College Hall, Westminster. Lord Alwyne Compton, the prolocutor, occupied the chair.

Archdeacon LIGHTFOOT presented the report of the committee on the present state of the law as affecting incumbents dependent for their income on land. In the course of his remarks he said that the prolonged agricultural depression had been most disastrous to those clergy who depended on their glebe lands for their income, the depreciation of value being in some instances as much as 43 per cent. A change in the law as affecting glebe lands was most necessary.

Canon HOLE said he spoke with feeling on this subject, as he himself possessed a perfect coruscation of honours, but they were honours without income. He was a member of that House and a rural dean, but no income was attached to either function. He held a stall in Lincoln Cathedral as prebendary, but it had been truly described as a "stall without a manger." He was a member of the Central Council, but the stipend was unknown. He was chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and a select preacher of the University of Oxford. He had 124 acres of glebe land, which now was not worth more than 15s. an acre. He thought something might be done in breaking up glebe lands into small holdings for peasant farmers.

The House then discussed a series of resolutions on this subject of a technical character, and, at its rising, was prorogued until July 7.

MAY MEETINGS.

The 40th annual meeting of the Church of England Young Men's Society was held on the 28th ult. at King's College—the Hon. Thomas H. W. Pelham presiding. Amongst others present were Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Sir William T. Charley, the Rev. F. E. Wygram, the Rev. F. F. Goe, and the Rev. R. J. Simpson.—The CHAIRMAN observed that there was one special feature of the work of the society, and that was its distinctly religious character. Its object was that of moral improvement, and to provide the many youths in the metropolis who were removed from the restraint of home life with healthy occupation for mind and body. It was now desired to establish a central building in the City where young men would find all the attractions of a well-ordered young men's club—Mr. J. H. RHODES, secretary, read the report, which, after lamenting the loss of their late president, Earl Cairns, and of the late Bishop of London (a vice-president), stated that the amount received towards the erection of the central building was now about £3,000. The Queen had graciously given her consent to the new building being named the "Leopold Rooms." New branches of the society had been established in the provinces, and also in the suburbs, and the classes in connection therewith had been fairly well attended. The adoption of the report having been moved by Sir THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, it was duly carried after being seconded by the Rev. F. E. WYGRAM.—The next resolution was moved by the Rev. F. F. GOE, to the effect that the labours of the society during during the past 43 years in promoting the spiritual, social, and intellectual well-being of young men entitled it to hearty support, and that the meeting warmly approved of the efforts now being made to enlarge the sphere of the society's operations.—In seconding this resolution Sir W. CHARLEY said that the aim of the society had always been to encourage young men to Christian manliness, and he hoped that the public would support them with increased sympathy.—The resolution was carried, and votes of thanks to the chairman for presiding, and to the Principal of King's College for the use of the hall, having been carried, the proceedings terminated.—During the evening appropriate addresses were delivered by the Rev. H. J. BERGUER and the Rev. F. A. C. LILLINGTON.

The annual meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society was held on the 28th ult. in the library of Lambeth Palace. The meeting was largely attended. Among those present were Canon Kelly, Dr. Edgehill, Chaplain-General, Canon Ellison, Canon Hopkins, Canon Leigh, and Canon Stephenson. In the absence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Dover occupied the chair. The annual report was read by the Rev. G. HOWARD WRIGHT. It stated that the society had during the past year made satisfactory progress. It was estimated that it numbered at present no less than 657,584 members. This was an increase of 104,432 over the number of last year. The various branches of work undertaken had been industriously persevered in. Police-court rescue work was at present prosecuted at three courts, and would be extended to others as soon as funds were forthcoming. The railway work had much increased, necessitating the appointment of a special secretary. The army division of work had been a great success. In obedience to the command of the Commander-in-chief, the society had taken the place of the Army Temperance Union formed last year. The organisation for labour among cabmen and 'bus men was completed in December last year, and had already borne good fruit. A large number of sailors had also been evangelised. Other branches of the society's work had also been successfully carried on so far as the funds would permit. The CHAIRMAN, in his address, impressed upon the meeting the importance of a form of control over the number of publichouse licences in any given district. Local option he did not, he said, believe in, being unable to see why the desires of 499 persons should be swamped by the will of 500. Grocers' licences were also exceedingly objectionable, and should be discontinued. The evils of drink were spread far and wide around. Poverty, wretchedness, and lunacy were caused by it, and it was to be hoped that the action of the society would be instrumental in diminishing these miseries. The adoption of the report was moved by the Rev. Prebendary AINSLIE, seconded by Canon SCOTT-HOLLAND, and carried unanimously. The proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chair.

The annual meeting of the British and Foreign School Society was held at the Mansion House on Tuesday last week—the Lord Mayor presiding. Mr. W. E. FORSTER, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report, after referring with satisfaction to the work of the society, said that a great deal of attention had been of late directed to the question of over-pressure. His feeling about that was that it had not been proved that very great injury had been caused. It had, however, been shown that there was great danger of injury, and that there were influences at work which made it most necessary that they should guard against that danger. One was that many of the children were utterly untaught children, who, taken from their homes, were sent to school alongside of those who came from a cultivated home, and therefore it was very difficult to keep the poorer children up to the same level of learning as the others. Then there was the difficult question of apportioning the respective claims that the child should be made to help his parents and that he should be educated. After urging that reading, writing, cyphering, and the teaching of the Bible were necessaries, and that beyond that teaching might be considered a luxury, he said that as to the conditions of payment he was in favour of the principle of the merit grant—that the school should be rewarded according to its actual efficiency. As to the important question of free education, he hoped that those who advocated it would bear in mind the tremendous expenditure that it would entail. It would be felt by many of the middle-class as a great injustice. The great question of the day, however, was not whether they were to incur a larger expenditure, but whether the present expenditure of the Boards was not too large. He thought that the authorities of the London School Board would have to give an answer to the statement charged against it that their schools cost more than the schools in many of the large towns. He saw no particular reason why the cost in London should be more than in Birmingham, Leeds, or Manchester. It was desirable that economy should be exercised, but he trusted that it would not be in the direction of a diminution of the teaching staff. The present teaching staff was lower than it ought to be. Mr. Forster then spoke of the value of the training colleges.

The eighty-first annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held at Exeter Hall on Wednesday morning, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The report set forth that the year had been one of financial surprises and deliverances. Their liabilities of £231,000 had been met, and they still had a balance. There had been a circulation, the wide world over, of 4,000,000 of copies of the Bible, which was 250,000 beyond the highest figures ever reached before. The CHAIRMAN said that for nearly twelve months he had been laid up, and that this was the first public duty he had been able to perform since his illness. There was no period in the history of our country—nay, in the history of the world—when there was such a movement going on among the degraded, the apparently most abandoned and hopeless classes as at present. Thousands of poor boys were now seeking permission to attend evening classes, and to them what an advantage would be a penny Testament. What was wanted was the enlargement of the number of such institutions ; then the scholars would come to them. He at all events desired to go among that class again, and to have his prayer heard that he might die in harness. The Archbishop of CANTERBURY moved the adoption of the report, and in doing so said that the great growth which had taken place in the circulation during the year indicated what the mind of England was with regard to religion, or, at least, the Bible. Still, he would not admit that England was permeated with religion. A Government which desired to do right had told them they were unable to protect young girls between fifteen and sixteen years of age, because of the sentiment of the people. Now, if that were true—and he knew the Government had given the matter their most anxious attention—what a want there was for spreading the spirit of Christianity throughout England. Professor ELMSLIE seconded the resolution, which was carried. The Rev. W. MUIRHEAD, the Rev. A. MEILLE, and the Rev. E. A. STUART also addressed the meeting.

The Lord Mayor presided last week over a public meeting on behalf of the Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays, held at the Mansion House. Among those present were the Bishop of Colchester, the Bishop of Bedford, the Rev. J. W. Horsley, the Rev. Mr. Windle, the Rev. Prebendary Whittington, the Rev. Prebendary Brooke, the Rev. W. T. H. Bourne, Mr. E. de M. Rudolf, and Mr. Thomas Charrington. A letter regretting inability to attend, and expressing sympathy with the objects of the meeting, was received from Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P. The secretary (the Rev. G. H. WOOLLEY) said that the income of the society down to the end of March was about £8,400, the total income for the year being £9,400. The total expenditure was £8,100. Last year the society had five homes in existence, whereas now they had ten homes, and six more were to be opened. A home had been purchased in Canada, and the first party of children were sent out last week to that home. The number of children received last year was 247, and up to the present time the society had received 460 children, of whom 375 remained on their hands. He announced that a bazaar in aid of the society was shortly to be held at the Duke of Wellington's Riding School, and trusted that all friends of poor waifs and strays would give it their support. The LORD MAYOR spoke in support of the work of the society, and said that he recognised that the care of waifs and strays was a most important subject, for the number of children that prowled about the streets was a very serious matter. Any institu-

tion of this kind which provided for the reception of these poor children rescued them from the wretched condition in which they were found, and made them good and useful citizens, ought to have the support of all Christian men and women. The Earl of Dartmouth then referred to the work of the society, and said he was glad that the children who were received into their homes were taught a knowledge of religion as well as having a secular education, for he thought that education without religion was like good food without salt. The Bishop of Bedford spoke hopefully of the work of the society. He urged that the Church of England should pay more attention to the subject of rescuing waifs and strays in the future. From personal visits to the homes he could testify to the influence for good exercised over the children, who were all very susceptible to kindness. England's danger in the future was in the great gulf that existed between classes of the community, and the Church should endeavour to bridge over that gulf, and the only way that could be done was by training the young in such institutions as theirs. The hope for the future was in the young, and the society was therefore helping forward the prosperity of the whole land. The claims of the society were also advocated by the Bishop of Colchester, the Rev. J. W. Horsley, and other speakers.

The Bishop of London presided on Monday evening at the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the National Temperance League at Exeter Hall. A resolution of congratulation to the president on his translation to the See of London, and referring to his lordship's long and distinguished services in the work of moral and social reform, was adopted. The resolution also congratulated Mrs. Temple on her removal to London, where it was hoped she would find new openings for her works of faith and philanthropy. This was proposed by Dr. B. W. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., and supported by the Rev. Canon Fleming. The Bishop in his opening address said that he had learned in dealing with people that there was much difference between "Come along" and "Go along," and in order that he might be able to lead people in the temperance cause, he had himself been for years a total abstainer. He had read very extensively on the subject of temperance, and was convinced that no safe course was to be found except in total abstinence. The Rev. Newman Hall said that now that we had got rid of the war in Africa, and hoped to have no war with Russia, he hoped they would have a little time in the House of Commons for attention to matters upon which the happiness of the people so largely depended. Dr. Thomas Blunt, M.D., of Leicester, and the Rev. Dr. J. C. Edghill, Chaplain-General, also spoke.

Exeter Hall was crowded on Tuesday morning at the annual meeting of the Church Missionary Society. The Earl of Chichester presided. The Rev. F. E. Wigram, honorary secretary, read an abstract of the annual report. The receipts for the year were, on general account, £198,212: for Extension Fund, £3,136; and for various special funds, including interest, £30,193; total receipts, £231,541. The general expenditure had been £207,283. besides payments from special funds. Although the contributions from the northern counties were lower, the agricultural counties had not gone back, notwithstanding the state of the country; while Scotland and Ireland had advanced. The new wing of the Society's house in Salisbury-square had been finished and entirely paid for by the gifts of friends without drawing a penny from missionary funds, nearly £17,000 having been paid or promised on this account, for the enlargement and to pay off an old mortgage. The society had received 105 offers for missionary service during the year, and had accepted forty-five—viz., twenty-seven men for training and eighteen ready to go out. Of the latter nine were University graduates. The report then reviewed the various missions, West Africa, Niger, East and Central Africa, Egypt, Palestine, Persia, North and South India, Ceylon, Mauritius, China, Japan, New Zealand, North-West America, and North Pacific. Special reference was made to the new Bishoprics in East Africa and North-West America; to the death of King Mtesa; to the recent deputation to Ceylon; to the war in China; and to linguistic work in various countries. Four projects of extension were announced—viz., to Chagga in East Africa, to Quetta in Afghanistan, to Aden, and to the Soudan, for which a Gordon Memorial Mission Fund is to be raised. In conclusion, numerous deaths among the society's friends were noticed, especially those of General Gordon, Earl Cairns, and Bishop Jackson; and satisfaction was expressed at the elevation of Dr. E. H. Bickersteth, "the society's life-long, devoted, and munificent friend," to the Bishopric of Exeter. The Bishop of London urged the claims of foreign missions, and contended that the notion of some people that if they gave extensive pecuniary help to missions to the heathen the home work would suffer was a false one. The more they got for foreign missions the more they would get for home work, in consequence of the enthusiasm among the people. The Rev. H. C. G. Moule, M.A., Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, urged the necessity for personal service in this work, and referred to the enthusiasm aroused by the young Cambridge men who had consecrated their lives to the missionary enterprise. The Rev. C. Fenn, M.A., who had just returned from the scene of his former labours in Ceylon, gave a detailed account of the number of the various religious sects in Ceylon, and described the extended work of the society which was going on in those parts, which included an effort to make the churches there more self-supporting. The Rev. H. P. Parker, missionary in Calcutta, said that three new institutions had been started in Calcutta during the last six or eight years, a divinity school, and a boarding school for boys and girls respectively. In the same period, too, five new churches had been built in the same district; and besides this, the spiritual tone in that Christian community of 5,000 had undoubtedly been greatly improved. In that diocese the society had fine machinery, though many of the stations were much undermanned. He was glad to see that a feeling existed that the Archbishop of Canterbury should be asked to permit a special prayer for the conversion of the heathen to be used as arranged. The Rev. C. F. Wabran, of Osaka, Japan, said the appearance of Bishop Poole, the first English Bishop in Japan, had created fresh interest in missionary circles around him. Since 1873 there had been in Japan less and less antipathy to Christianity, and as much religious toleration as they might wish for. Only last year two acts on the part of the Government of Japan showed that religious toleration was to be had in the fullest sense of the word. One of these acts was the withdrawal of much of their patronage from the existing religions of the country; and other actions of the Government were in favour of Protestant Christianity This constituted a call to the Church at home to obey. Much infidelity was fostered among young men in Japan by infidel professors, who went out from this country in the pay of their Government to promote educational work in that country. The Rev. H. Webb-Peploe contended that England, having conquered so many countries, owed a great debt to much of the world, and therefore there was no place to which she did not owe the gospel of peace. In the evening a second public meeting was held, under the presidency of the Bishop-Elect of Exeter. A specially interesting feature of the proceedings was a description by the Rev. J. R. Longley Hall, missionary from Palestine, of some personal exeriences in Jaffa with General Gordon, who co-operated for eight months with him in his labours, drawing plans and specifications for mission premises, as well as visiting. Mr. Hall quoted from subsequent letters written by the General while in the Soudan, particularly one dated Khartoum when he was anticipating the fall of that city, expressing his undying interest in the spiritual well-being of the natives, and wishing that, "hidden in Christ," he could die with the burden of their sins upon him. The right rev. chairman mentioned the fact that just on entering his thirty years' labour in London he spoke on the platform for that society, and now, just before leaving for his new charge in Exeter, his last public address was in the same place for the same cause. His Lordship added that his own church at Hampstead had raised £1,017 for the foreign missionary work during the year. Several other addresses were delivered.

EDUCATIONAL.

The Governors of Harrow School have elected the Rev. J. E. C. Welldon, M.A., Headmaster of Dulwich College, and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, to fill the vacancy in the headmastership caused by Dr. Montague Butler's acceptance of the Deanery of Gloucester. The *Times* understands that the election was unanimous, the name of Canon Percival, the President of Trinity College, Oxford, who had consented to be privately nominated, having been previously withdrawn. It is less than three years since Mr. James Elward Cowell Welldon was chosen at an early age to be Headmaster of Dulwich, where his tenure of the office, though short, has proved very successful. He had a distinguished career at Eton, and King's, Cambridge, of both of which colleges he was a scholar. At Eton he won the Newcastle Scholarship, and at Cambridge, where he went up in 1873, he was Bell's Scholar in 1874 and Craven Scholar in 1876, and obtained in 1873 the Carus Greek Testament prize, and in 1875 and 1876 Sir William Browne's medal for a Greek ode. He took his degree in 1877 as Senior Classic and Senior Chancellor's Medallist, and was elected in 1880 a Fellow of his college. He was ordained in 1883. It will be remembered that Mr. Welldon was last year a candidate for the headmastership of Eton on Dr. Hornby's resignation, and it was understood that the choice of the electors ultimately lay between him and Dr. Warre, the present headmaster. Having so nearly missed the headmastership of his old school, Mr. Welldon is now called upon to preside over its most prominent rival.

An important minute on additional grants to Highland schools has been prepared by the Scotch Education Department and laid on the table of the House of Commons. Exceptional treatment of schools in the Highlands has been rendered necessary by the heavy burden laid on certain localities, in which the School Boards have been compelled to establish numerous small schools to meet the want of a thin and widely-scattered population. In many parishes the school-rate exceeds 2s. in the pound, and in others it is as high as 4s. and 5s. On the other hand the school fees are exceptionally low. In all the schools under sixteen separate boards the fee averages only 15s. 8d. a head per annum. The grants earned are also low, owing to the irregular attendance of the children. The counties to which the new minute is intended to apply are Inverness, Argyll, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, and Orkney and Shetland. In an explanatory statement accompanying the minute their Lordships say that their object has been not only to help financial difficulties, but also to afford an educational stimulus, and to promote efficiency of the schools in the districts relieved. They have therefore resolved to make the additional grant depend mainly on the average attendance. The present grant on attendance is 4s.; it is to rise by four stages of 1s. each for every 5 per cent. of average attendance from 65 to 80 per cent.—that is to say, at 80 per cent. the grant will be doubled. Their Lordships point out that in proportion as this grant raises the average attendance, the ordinary grant on examination will rise also. Two other objects which the minute has in view are the encouragement of higher instruction and the provision of Gaelic-speaking teachers.

The thirtieth annual dinner in aid of the funds of St. John's Foundation School was held on Wednesday night at the Westminster Palace Hotel, the Bishop of Ripon presiding. The toast of "The Bishops and Clergy" was proposed by Major-General Lowry; and the Archdeacon of Kingston having responded, the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to St. John's Foundation School," was next proposed by the Chairman, who said that the object of the schools was the provision of a free education and maintenance for the sons of the poorer clergy in England and Wales. He urged that side by side with the progress and extension of Church work there should be a proper care for the families of those clergymen of the Church of England whose incomes were insufficient to enable them to meet the expenses of the education of their children. The number of boys now in the school at Leatherhead was 125, but accommodation for 70 more boys had lately been provided, and he hoped that the necessary funds for the support of this extra number would be forthcoming. A large increase in the number of annual subscribers was wanted. Having sketched the results of the agricultural depression of the last few years, by which many hundreds of livings were reduced to less than half their nominal value, the chairman concluded with an urgent appeal on behalf of the school. The Rev. Dr. Troutbeck responded, after which the toast of "The Chairman" was proposed by the Archdeacon of Middlesex, and amongst other toasts which followed was that of "The Visitors," by Canon Duckworth, the Hon. and Rev. F. E. C. Byng responding. Subscriptions were announced by the secretary amounting to £1,463.

With respect to the King's College School case, the *Times* understands that the council of King's College were compelled last week to adjourn the consideration of the question of the recent death of a boy in the school, because, the boys being absent for the holidays, investigation into the circumstances was impossible. "Meanwhile they passed a resolution to support the headmaster in adopting additional precautions against the possibility of such misconduct. It was, we are informed, the intention of the council, who comprise three such experienced ex-head masters as the Bishop of London, the Dean of Westminster, and the Master of the Temple, to have instituted a full investigation into the facts when the boys met, with the view, among other things, of at least making an example of some of the boys responsible for the violence in question." It is doubtful, however, whether this is any longer possible, as the Home Secretary has placed the matter in the hands of the Public Prosecutor. In announcing this in the House of Commons on Monday, Sir William Harcourt said he thought the case a most serious one. There was no greater blot on our social system than the abominable practice of bullying which takes place in the great schools, and, for the matter of that, in some of the small schools of the country. He ventured to say that both parents and masters were greatly responsible for allowing the state of things, which was not peculiar to this school, to go on. A system of terrorism existed of which this was an example. "The poor boy did not venture to tell what had happened, and when it comes to the knowledge of the parents they are afraid that if they make a complaint the boy will suffer; and the masters of the school allow these things to go on for fear of mischief happening to the school. They do not take measures in order to put a stop to things of this kind. By this system of terrorism which is carried out immunity is secured to those brutal tyrants who exercise those cruelties. As soon as I heard of this case I wrote to the managers of King's College, and I received a reply which I do not regard as at all satisfactory. The writer says:—'I am sorry to be unable at present to give you any further information beyond what came out at the inquest. The school is at present broken up.' I do not see why that should be a reason why inquiry should not take place. The letter goes on:—'In the meantime a special committee of the council has been summoned to meet on Friday next.' To my mind, that is not at all a satisfactory way of dealing with such a case as this. Therefore, I have placed the case in the hands of the Public Prosecutor with instructions, if possible, to obtain evidence and procure the conviction and adequate punishment of offenders of this description. There are hundreds of boys sent to prison for offences trivial in comparison with crimes of this description. I think the time has come for dealing with this matter seriously, and when big boys guilty of offences of this kind are punished as they deserve to be, and when schools managed so as to allow a state of things of this sort to be possible are made to suffer, we shall then get to the end of a system which makes a number of innocent young lives miserable and intolerable."

On Saturday, in accordance with an address of the House of Commons, the statistics of inspection of annual grant schools were issued for the year ended August 31, 1884. Of the voluntary schools, 10,681 were for infants, and in 765 cases the grant was refused; 3,689 schools were found to be fair, 5,039 to be good, and 1,188 merited the title of excellent. The schools for older scholars were 16,266 in number, and in 1,129 cases the grant was refused; 5,174 schools were marked fair, 7,809 good, and 2,154 excellent. This means that 7 per cent. of the schools (those for infants and those for elder scholars taken together) failed to obtain the grant, 33 per cent. were marked fair, rather more than 47 per cent. good, while more than 12 per cent. were classed as excellent. These proportions may be compared with those made by the Church of England schools; 21,508 out of the 26,947 schools are returned as distinctively belonging to the Church. In 1,511 the grant was refused, 7,204 were marked as fair, 10,246 as good, and 2,547 as excellent. The percentages thus found vary only in the slightest degree from those given above. The total number of Board schools is given as 8,681 in eight large towns — Birmingham, Bradford, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Sheffield. Of these London possesses 943. In 483 the grant was refused; 2,249 were classed as fair, 4,414 as good, and 1,535 as excellent. These numbers show a slightly better average of efficiency. Thus, the grant was refused in less than 6 per cent. of the Board schools, 26 per cent. were fair, more than half were good, while nearly 18 per cent. were returned as excellent. In 949 Voluntary schools and 239 Board schools the grant was reduced under Article 114 of the New Code. At the same time, there has been issued a return of the income and expenditure of Voluntary and Board schools. This return shows the average cost for every scholar in the different kinds of schools. Thus, in Voluntary schools those classed as Church schools expend £1 15s. 2¼d. a scholar, and the grant earned by that scholar is on an average 16s. 3¾d. These figures differ but little from the general average of Voluntary schools in England and Wales. The returns for the Board schools in the eight large towns mentioned above are more interesting. The average expenditure for every scholar ranges from £2 14s. 6d. in London to £1 9s. 0½d. in Hull. The grants earned do not vary so much, the highest being Bradford, 19s. 2½d., and the lowest, Hull, 16s. 6d. London scholars earn 17s. 9¾d. a head. Hull again stands at the bottom of the list in the expenditure for site and building, which is £11 0s. 10d. a school place; while London's expenditure is £17 2s. 10d., which is greater by £3 13s. 8d. than the sum expended by Birmingham, which stands second to London in this particular. London pays 16s. 3d. a scholar for interest and repayment of loans, while Hull pays only 9s. 10½d.; and between these figures the other towns range.

INOCULATING FOR CHOLERA.

The Madrid papers are full of details on the experiments of inoculation as a preservative against cholera, which have been made in Valencia by a young Catalan physician. Dr. Jaime Ferran is only thirty-three years of age, and after passing through the customary curriculum at the Institutes of Tortosa and Tarragona, took his M.D. degree at Barcelona. He has been in practice at Tortosa for several years, and is already well know in this country and abroad for his works on micro-telephony in 1878, and for his curious investigations on micro-biology and parasites, which were rewarded by the Royal Academy of Medicine in Madrid. Dr. Ferran was sent to Toulon and Marseilles during the last epidemic of 1884, and he spent several months with German, French, and Italian surgeons, studying the epidemic, and especially Dr. Koch's theories on the comma bacillus, or cholera microbe. Those studies impelled Dr. Ferran to pursue his investigations on his return to his own country, and he thus came to the conclusion that Dr. Koch had only observed one of the many stages of this microbe's successive developments. Señor Ferran has discovered that, by submitting the comma bacillus to certain chemical elements very similar to the bile of animals and to the gastric juice of the human stomach, this microbe passes through successive and invariable stages of development, in one of which he has detected the eggs, which are, in his opinion, the real generators and propagators of cholera.

Dr. Ferran, the *Standard* correspondent says, has made many experiments on men and animals, which lead him to state that inoculation by this bacillus can produce the death of animals with every symptom characteristic of cholera, and that the inoculation of human beings creates symptoms identical in their nature, but with less intensity and no fatal results. The inoculation is generally practised upon the lower part of both arms. In two or three hours it produces local irritation, difficulty in moving the limb, and dull pain. After about four or five hours the pulse rises to 114 and even 120, and the heat of the body to thirty-seven and forty Centigrade. The person thus inoculated feels languid, shivers, loses appetite, and suffers from nausea, diarrhœa, cramp, and sleeplessness. After twenty-four hours these symptoms abate, and they generally disappear in forty-eight hours. All successive inoculations, even to the extent of eight cubic centimètres of virus, prove utterly harmless, both in adults and children. In animals, after inoculation, it has been observed that successive and larger doses of virus, introduced by inoculation, also prove harmless, whereas these same doses produce death with choleraic symptoms in any animals not previously inoculated.

Dr. Ferran has also observed that the local symptoms resulting from inoculation seldom vary, whereas the general symptoms vary according to each case. Not a single case has occurred in which successive inoculations in men or animals have caused death. He has tried his experiments on himself and other medical men, and on hundreds of believers in this preservative. He thinks himself, therefore, justified in expecting from these inoculations the same results as have been obtained from inoculation in smallpox and carbuncle. The Madrid Academy of Medicine sent down a commission of medical men, and their report is highly favourable to Dr. Ferran's experiments. Foreign scientific and medical societies and surgeons have taken great interest in these experiments, and have congratulated Dr. Ferran.

THE COURT.

The Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, having on board the Queen, Princess Beatrice, and suite, arrived at Sheerness at four o'clock on Saturday, and at once proceeded to Port Victoria, where, after a short delay, the Royal party disembarked and left by special train on the South-Eastern Railway for Windsor, where Her Majesty arrived at 7 28, having travelled over the South-Eastern and South-Western lines of railway from Queenborough.

Princess Beatrice and the members of Her Majesty's Household attended Divine service in the private chapel of Windsor Castle on Sunday morning. The Very Randall Davidson, assisted by the Rev. T. J. Rowsell, Deputy Clerk of the Closet to the Queen and Canon of Westminster, officiated.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Earl of Dudley died on Thursday morning at his residence in Park-lane. The cause of death was pneumonia, and his lordship had been ill only two days. William Ward, first Earl of Dudley, was born in March, 1817. He succeeded his father as 11th Baron Ward in 1835, and was created Viscount Ednam and Earl of Dudley in 1860. His Lordship was twice married; he is succeeded in the title by his eldest son, Viscount Ednam, who was born in 1867.

Mr. Brinley Richards, who is best known as the composer of "God Bless the Prince of Wales," died, after a short illness, on Saturday last, at his residence in Kensington. He was interred on Thursday, at Brompton Cemetery.

Lucy Anne, Lady Hodge, wife of General Sir E. C. Hodge, died on Saturday at her residence in Cornwall-gardens. She was a daughter of Mr. James Rimington, of Broomhead Hall, Bolderston, Yorkshire, and was married to Sir Edward in 1860.

The Princess Louise on Monday opened the East London Industrial Exhibition, in the Drillhall of the local Volunteers; also a small open space laid out as a public garden, in Carlton square, Globe-road; and the disused churchyard of St. Bartholomew, Bethnal-green, which has been converted into a garden. There were great demonstrations of loyalty all along the route taken by the Princess and her husband.

In the presence of a distinguished company, Mr. J. R. Lowell on Thursday unveiled a bust of the poet Coleridge, which has been erected in Westminster Abbey at the cost of the late Dr. Mercer, of Rhode Island. The preliminary proceedings were held in the Chapter House, Mr. Lowell reading an elegant and critical eulogy on the poet, while Dean Bradley, Lord Houghton, Archdeacon Farrar, Sir Francis Doyle, and the Lord Chief Justice offered appropriate remarks.

The annual banquet given by the President and Council of the Royal Academy took place on Saturday evening at Burlington House. Sir F. Leighton presided, and the Prince of Wales, Prince Albert Victor, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Cambridge, the Marquis of Salisbury, Sir S. Northcote, and the Archbishop of Canterbury were present. In responding to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers," Lord Granville concluded a graceful speech by appealing, amid the impressive silence of the audience, with a somewhat confident hope to the representatives of the Powers, so many of whom he saw before him, to labour, together with them, to lay upon the broadest foundation such principles as would secure international peace and prosperity.

In reply to a deputation on Monday from the Cornwall County Association, headed by Lord Mount-Edgcumbe and many members of Parliament, who asked for Government assistance for harbours of refuge, Mr. Chamberlain said the Government were prepared to give every facility by advancing money for small harbours for fishing and purposes of that description; but as to granting money for providing national harbours of refuge, he did not believe that this or any other Government would do so. As to a Commission to inquire into the subject, that was out of the question, but if localities came forward to provide funds for improving harbours, the Government would give them professional assistance and supervision.

A numerously-attended deputation from the Lord's Day Observance Society and the Metropolitan Museums Committee waited upon the trustees of the National Gallery on Monday, to present a memorial against the proposed opening of the institution on Sundays. The memorial, which was presented by the Rev. Dr. Gritton, was supported by Mr. S. Morley, M.P., Mr. R. Macintosh, and Mr. C. Hill.—Sir Henry Layard said on behalf of the trustees and directors that their duties were very limited. They were trustees of the national property, and it was their duty to see that it was kept in proper preservation. Beyond that they had little to do with the subject, and he would only repeat, as he had said to the previous deputation, that the question was one entirely for the decision of Parliament.—The deputation thanked the trustees and retired.

The metropolitan tramway companies have given public notice that the French bronze coinage stamped with advertisements will not be accepted in future in any of their cars in payment of fares. The Post-office and other establishments now also refuse them. This is, of course, fatal to this ingenious practice. The coins stamped with the names and addresses of the advertisers have, as is well known, been put into circulation by supplying them without stint to dealers at the rate of sixteen for a shilling; but as they became *ipso facto* a depreciated currency it is not surprising that the defaced pieces have already ceased to circulate. As long as they would pass from hand to hand as the equivalent of English coins no practical inconvenience was of course felt. Many thousands, however, are now left in the hands of the public, who are losers to that extent, for these defaced French coins, we believe, will not circulate even in France.

Mrs. Weldon's appeal against the condition imposed by the Queen's Bench upon the order for a new trial of her action against Mr. Neal was on Wednesday argued by counsel in the Court of Appeal. The Master of the Rolls said he wished to say something to alter the mode of proceeding of this unhappy woman, who brought a multitude of actions against persons, and conducted them herself, without knowing even the rudiments of law. In the present case, as the trial failed through her own wilfulness and mismanagement, she must pay the cost of the abortive trial; but the judgment of the Court below would be varied, so that the condition requiring her to pay one hundred pounds into Court would not be insisted on.

The action brought by Mrs. Weldon against M. Gounod, in which the defendant had allowed judgment to go by default, came on on Thursday before Mr. Under-Sheriff Burchell and a jury, in the Middlesex Sheriff's Court, for assessment of damages. The plaintiff, who was brought from Holloway Gaol, having given evidence as to her association with the defendant, counsel for the latter withdrew all imputations, and acknowledged liability for £1,640. Thereupon the jury assessed the damages at £10,000, in addition to the sum already admitted.

The School Board for London had a remarkably short sitting on Thursday. The only question discussed of general interest had to do with the arrangements hitherto adopted in connection with the opening of new schools. A motion was submitted instructing the Works Committee to incur no further expense in the holding of public meetings at the opening of Board schools. An amendment was moved to the effect that the Board continue to open all its new schools in public, except in very special cases. A motion to proceed to the next business was, however, carried, so that after a long discussion the matter fell to the ground.

The action brought by Mr. G. Head to recover from the Hundred of Brightford the cost of the damage done by the Skeleton Army to his premises at Worthing, in consequence of his having let a hall to the Salvation Army, was tried in the Queen's Bench on Wednesday. The premises were nearly wrecked, and whilst an attempt was being made to set them on fire Mr. Head fired at the mob with a revolver. An application for protection had been made to the police, but counsel for the defence stated that the services of the police were required elsewhere. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff with £147 compensation.

The Queen has approved the appointment of Mr. Walter Joseph Sendall to be Governor of the Windward Islands of Grenada, St. Vincent, Tobago, and St. Lucia which have been separated from the Island of Barbados by Her Majesty's Letters Patent. Mr. Sendall will proceed to assume the government by the mail of the 18th inst.

The opening of the new Roman Catholic church took place at East Dulwich on Wednesday. The church, which is a large and handsomely-designed structure, is situated in Lordship-lane, and is erected in connection with the monastery of the Capuchin Friars at the same place. After the celebration of Pontifical high mass by the Right Rev. Dr. Butt, Suffragan Bishop of Southwark (in whose diocese the monastery and church are situated), Cardinal Manning preached the sermon.

A fire broke out early on Wednesday morning on the extensive premises of Messrs. Jackson and Graham, Oxford-street. At a quarter to two o'clock Police-constable 426, of the E division, and two other constables, gave the alarm, not only to those who might happen to be on the premises, but also to the firemen in charge of the station in Theobald's-road, whence an engine was immediately despatched. Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting at the seat of the fire, the men having to run their hose through a narrow archway to the confined and cramped space of the court beyond, access to which was obtained from Newman-street. Owing to the highly inflammable character of the material with which the burning premises were stocked the flames burned fiercely. Urgent messages were despatched to stations further afield, and about half-past two Captain Shaw, together with Second Officer Simonds, arrived from headquarters, and the command of the brigade, which up to then had been in the hands of Superintendent Palmer, of the D district, was transferred to the later arrivals. By this time some twenty engines or more, together with a large number of fire-escapes, had arrived upon the scene. At about three o'clock Engineer Bates, of Fulham, was directing some of the firemen on a roof, when he fell through a skylight and was badly injured about the head. He was removed to the nearest hospital, and afterwards conveyed home. Large crowds assembled, and a strong force of police of both the E and the D divisions was present to maintain order. The fire burned fiercely up to half-past three, when the united efforts of the different engines began to have effect. It was not until some hours afterwards, however, that the flames could be said to have been thoroughly got under.

About nine o'clock on Saturday morning a fire broke out in the annexe of the Japanese Village at Knightsbridge. A woman who was sweeping out the exhibition discovered the fire and gave the alarm. Immediately on finding what was the matter the Japanese living in the place turned out, and at once applied the water hose, but finding the fire to be beyond their power to cope with, they summoned help and began to leave. Fortunately efficient succour was at hand, for the Knightsbridge Barracks are just opposite. The bugle was promptly sounded there, and a large body of Life Guards mustered in fatigue uniform. Crossing to the village, they took the first measures which suggested themselves to stay the fire until the Fire Brigade should arrive. They also assisted the flying Japanese to save their personal belongings, and rendered other needful services. Meanwhile the fire spread with alarming rapidity. By the time the Fire Brigade arrived it had got a firm hold of the village, which was constructed of the most combustible materials—framing of light wood and lattice-work, cloth, paper, &c.—while a good deal of the handicrafts carried on within it had also for their materials stuffs of a kind that quickly caught fire. Unhappily, there was a difficulty in getting water from the mains at sufficient pressure, and thus the efforts of the firemen were greatly neutralised and the fire enabled to get beyond bounds. By the time sufficient water was procured the village had been completely destroyed. Even the top floors of the mansions in front of it were ruined; indeed, it was only the concrete flooring of these mansions which saved the entire building from destruction. The loss, so far as the village is concerned, is estimated at about £15,000, including stock; and the loss in respect of Humphreys-mansions and buildings in front is reckoned roughly at £20,000. In the former case there are insurances for about £7,000, and in the latter case the loss is all covered by insurance. The women and children of the village were received by Mr. Alexander in Aubrey House, and the men in Knightsbridge Barracks; and they will be put into two empty houses in the Brompton-road, which have been secured for the purpose. It is intended to rebuild the village and again open the exhibition, which, it is hoped, will be accomplished in the space of a few weeks.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy, whose regiment is now engaged in the operations against the rebels in the North-West of the Dominion of Canada, raised and commanded the Manitoba Contingent of Voyageurs, who are now in England on their return from the Soudan to Canada. He served with them and rendered most valuable service during the whole of Lord Wolseley's late campaign on the Nile. The day after he landed in England he was seized with smallpox, which he is supposed to have contracted in the province of Dongola, and on Sunday morning he succumbed to the attack. The Empire has thus lost the services of a most valuable and distinguished officer, a man of influence and position in his own province, and respected and esteemed wherever he has served. His funeral took place on Wednesday, at Highgate, the service being conducted by the Rev. Dr. Greaves, President of the Wesleyan Conference. The body was carried to the grave by eight of the Canadian Voyageurs, the whole of the contingent following, and was there received by the firing party of 300 men of the Essex Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Maguire. At the conclusion of the service three volleys were fired over his grave. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was represented at the funeral by Colonel Stanley Clarke, who has recently returned from Korti. His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief deputed Colonel Pemberton, C.B., Assistant Quartermaster-General, Horse Guards, to represent him, and sent a wreath to be placed on the coffin.

The Prince of Wales, as President of the International Inventions and Music Exhibition, on Monday performed the opening ceremony at South Kensington. As it was considered necessary to hold it in the conservatory, the proceedings were witnessed by comparatively few; but the number who visited the building in the course of the day was no less than 25,000. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Princess and his three daughters, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and Prince Alfred, Princess Helena and Prince Christian, and the Duke of Cambridge. The Princess of Wales wore a dress and bonnet of two shades of brown, the warmer tint of the tight-fitting jacket being brightened by small spots of gold chenille. A yellow rose was the sole ornament on a costume which, the *Times* says, was charming in its effect. Next to her stood the Princess Helena in a dark dress, trimmed with gold, and with an aigrette of the brilliant red of the flamingo's wing in her bonnet. By her side was the Duchess of Edinburgh, in a handsome brocaded velvet dress, of which the prevailing lightest tint was in the key of colour of a tuft of ostrich feathers of very pale coral pink worn in the bonnet. The Archbishop of York and a large number of personages distinguished in political, scientific, and artistic circles were also present. The proceedings were commenced by Sir F. Bramwell, who, as Chairman of the Executive Council, addressed the President at some length. By way of illustrating the popularity of the Exhibition, Sir Frederick stated that £50,000 had been contemplated as the probable amount of the guarantee fund, but that it already exceeded £87,000, and was receiving additions every week. The Albert Hall would form an integral portion of the Exhibition, and the Royal Horticultural Society would hold the usual periodical flower and fruit shows. Sir Frederick also spoke in terms of congratulation respecting the completion of the subway which now connects the South Kensington station with the building, and which his Royal Highness had opened on the previous Saturday. Mr. Trendell, the Literary Superintendent, having presented to his Royal Highness a handsomely bound copy of the catalogue, the Prince in the course of his reply said:—"I readily echo the sentiments of gratitude which you have expressed for the invaluable aid rendered by the guarantors; and I join with you in welcoming the representatives of those foreign countries who are present here to-day. The interest which I take in the advancement of musical education leads me to hope—and I trust not without foundation—that the devotion of a special section to music will have the effect of encouraging the love of that art in this country, and I look forward to beneficial results from the competitions to which you have alluded. I am sincerely pleased at the completion of an undertaking which has from its commencement had my cordial sympathy. I refer to the subway which I had the pleasure of declaring open on Saturday last, and I feel sure that this new access to the Exhibition will prove not only a great boon to visitors, but also in the manner in which you have indicated, a relief to the inhabitants of this district. In congratulating you upon the results of your labours up to the present time, I trust that your efforts will be rewarded by a success as great as that which attended the two previous Exhibitions. I now declare this Exhibition opened." While the cheers which the announcement drew forth were still ringing through the conservatory, the procession began the return, the Prince of Wales stopping, however, as he left the dais to shake hands with the Maharajah of Johore, and presenting his Highness to the Princess. As the Royal visitors had been conducted to the conservatory by the buildings on the east side of the grounds, they now returned through those on the west. The improvement in the appearance of the Old London Street, where trumpeters in gorgeous tunics blew a fanfare, and halberdiers in the costumes of the time of Charles I. mounted guard, was remarked upon by the Prince of Wales. At "yesigne of ye Rose and Shamrock" the Marchioness of Waterford and Mrs. Ernest Hart were in readiness to present the Princess of Wales with a specially prepared list of specimens of the knitting, weaving, embroidery, and other handiwork of Donegal peasants shown here. The Marquis of Hamilton mentioned some of the benefits which had been conferred upon the poor people of the West of Ireland by the revival of cottage industries through the operation of the Donegal Industrial Fund, and her Royal Highness graciously promised Lady Waterford to return on another occasion and examine the work of the cotters. As the procession began to move forward once more the carillon of sweet-toned bells, twelve in number, from Messrs. Gillett's Croydon foundry, which hang in the little church tower, played "God bless the Prince of Wales." After remaining for some time in the prettily decorated Royal pavilion, the Royal visitors resumed their tour of the Exhibition, returning to the vestibule of the main entrance by the long south gallery. His Royal Highness, on leaving, expressed the gratification the visit to the Exhibition had afforded himself and the Princess of Wales.

Messrs. Ross and Co., Belfast, have just received the following telegram:—"New Orleans, *Official*.—Ross's Ginger Ale Aërated Waters First Class Medal."

The Lord Mayor presided on Thursday night at a banquet to celebrate the opening of the Chancery-lane Safe Deposit, held in the large hall of the premises in Chancery-lane. He was supported by a large and influential company. Previous to the dinner the opening ceremony was performed by the Lord Mayor. The new large Safe Deposit, constructed by Mr. Thomas Clarke at the northern end of Chancery-lane, has an area of 75,000 superficial feet. The entrance consists of a handsome archway of polished red granite, and the upper external vestibule is protected by handsome wrought-iron gates, and a portcullis or grille, which can be lowered when required. At the further end of this external vestibule is a commodious waiting-room, and in the centre a flight of stairs leading to the lower external vestibule. These vestibules are constructed entirely of incombustible material. They are highly ornate, and at the same time of most substantial workmanship. Iron gates again bar the way to the lobby, on the left of which are the offices of the manager, and on the right gentlemen and ladies' writing-rooms. Passing through the inner iron gates the visitor enter the internal, or "safe" vestibule, and is confronted with the various strong-rooms, occupying three sides of the area, which is tastefully paved with tiles in pattern. The strong-rooms, four in number, for documents and other valuables, form the most interesting part of the safe deposit. These rooms, which weigh the enormous amount of 500 tons, with doors of two tons each, are divided into about 5,000 separate iron safes, tier upon tier, of different sizes, and are called "integers." These receptacles are so arranged that the key of the renter as well as the key of the custodian will be required to be used at the same time before an opening can be effected. All the strong rooms are built on iron columns in the vaults beneath, and are completely isolated from any external walls, so that armed patrols can by night walk round, under, and over them. No one, therefore, can approach without being observed. Moreover, on each of the doors there is a mechanical clock-work arrangement that only admits of their being opened at certain hours, and never on Sundays. The "armour plating" of the strong-rooms, consisting of boiler plates with steel plates intervening, is the strongest ever applied to such a purpose. At the banquet which followed the opening ceremony all the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured, after which the Chairman gave the toast of the evening, "Success to the Chancery-lane Safe Deposit." He said that they were now come to the more business part of the proceedings. He looked on the institution of this establishment as the greatest benefit to the commercial community of London. They all know the vast amount of securities which the wealth of the country included, and it was necessary that these securities should be carefully and safely guarded. There were many enemies abroad, but there was a vital one at home, and that was fire. It was absolutely necessary that they should have some safe place where these securities could be deposited. It was perhaps not so important with regard to home securities, except those which were unfunded, but as to foreign or hand to hand securities, whose value depended upon the possession of the papers themselves, they would see the importance of such an institution. They wished success to the undertaking as a business, for on the success of business the prosperity of the country depended; yet not only as a business, but also in view of the great importance which such an institution was to the community at large. Mr. Thomas Clarke, in reply, said that it was upon reading the account of the River Plate Bank frauds, and of the abstraction of deeds and valuables in other instances, that he was persuaded that such a stronghold as that Safe Deposit was specially required in the immediate vicinity of the Royal Courts of Justice. The work had not been executed without a considerable amount of anxiety, especially through being desirous of adopting the most modern improvements and inventions, and of making the structure as perfect as possible in all details, and he left it to them to form an opinion as to its scientific construction and practical usefulness. Mr. Daniel Ratcliff also responded.

A richly painted window, from the studio of Mr. Taylor, of Berners-street, with the subject of "The Healing of Malchus," has been erected in St. Peter's Church, Belsize Park, the gift of Mr. Chas. Light, in memory of his brother, completing the series in the south aisle.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending May 2 was—medical 741, surgical 341; total 1,082, of which 459 were new cases.

"laden with the scent of flowers,
And breath of odorous spring."

SPINNER'S TEA.—A company of merchants are now selling through Spinner & Co. the choicest tea that comes from India and China at 2s. 8d. a pound, in packets only. This is the perfection of tea, and will please the most fastidious.—Agents wanted in every town and village. For terms, apply to Spinner & Co., 60, Strand, London.—SPINNER & CO., London and Liverpool.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins 1s 1½d., labelled, "JAMES EPPS AND CO., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co. are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent." While Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease."

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

BIRTHS.

April 25, at the Vicarage, Herne-hill, the wife of the Rev. S. F. BRIDGE, of a daughter.

April 27, at Lower Beeding Vicarage, the wife of the Rev. C. E. HUBBARD of a son.

May 1, at Longcroft, New Shoreham, the wife of the Rev. H. C. SHUTTLEWORTH, of a daughter.

May 1, at Graveley Rectory, the wife of the Rev. JOHN PARDE, of a son.

May 2, at All Souls' Vicarage, Haley-hill, Halifax, the wife of the Rev. HENRY ASKWITH, of a daughter.

May 2, at Griston Vicarage, Norfolk, the wife of the Rev. H. ANDREW, of a son.

May 2, at 29, Eaton-square, Lady CAMOYS, of a son.

May 2, at 8, Bryanston-square, Lady BEATRICE LISTER KAYE, of a daughter.

May 3, at Charlton Mackrell Rectory, the wife of the Rev. F. A. BEYMER, of a daughter.

May 4, at Hazlewood, King's Langley, the wife of the Rev. HENRY STUART GLADSTONE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

April 28, at Besthorpe Church, Norfolk, WALTER JOHN HAUGHTON, the Woodlands, Morley, Wymondham, to JESSIE LOUISE, fourth daughter of the late W. R. Clarke, Esq., of Wattlefield Hall, and widow of the Rev. GEORGE GONVILLE GOODWIN, Vicar of Crosthwaite, Cumberland.

April 30, at St. Michael's, Bray, GEORGE STRICKLAND MARRIOT, youngest son of the late Rev. J. P. GOULTON-CONSTABLE, of Cotesbach, Leicestershire, to GERTRUDE, third daughter of the Rev. W. B. Hole, Vicar of Bray.

April 30, at St. Michael's, Chester-square, JOHN HYDE WOLTON, of 14, Great Cumberland-place, Hyde-park, to MINNIE, second daughter of the Rev. Canon FLEMING, Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen.

April 30, at St. George's Church, Orleton, CHARLES HARRY, youngest son of the Rev. C. G. DOUTON, Vicar of Felmersham, Bedford, to IDEA MARY JULIA (LILLIE), only daughter of the Rev. W. E. EDWARDS, Vicar of Orleton, Herefordshire.

May 5, at Rushbury Parish Church, Shropshire, LYDE BENSON, Barrister-at-law, youngest son of the late W. G. Benson, Esq., of Lutwyche Hall, Shropshire, to EMILY HARRIET, third daughter of the Rev. FREDERICK H. HOTHAM, R.D., Rector of Rushbury.

May 5, at the parish church of All Saints', Clifton, WILLIAM FRANCIS DARBY, B.A., Keble College, Oxford, youngest son of the Rev. S. Darby, Vicar of Weston-by-Welland, Northants, to GERALDINE MARGARET, youngest daughter of the Rev. R. W. RANDALL, Vicar of All Saints', Clifton.

DEATHS.

April 28, at Glasnevin House, Dublin, the Lady MARY LINDSAY, wife of Mr. George H. Lindsay, aged 82.

May 1, at Hesmonds, East Hoathly, Sussex, DEMETRIA, widow of the Rev. FREDERICK BORRADAILE, aged 84.

May 2, at 26, Connaught-gardens, Queen's-gate, LUCY ANNE, wife of General Sir EDWARD HODGE, K.C.B.

May 4, at 2, Stoneleigh-villas, Bath, LUCY SPARROW GEORGINA, widow of the late Rev. THOS. METYLER, aged 77.

May 5, at her residence, 4, St. Michael's-place, Brighton, after a few days' illness, ELIZABETH CHAD, wife of the Rev. W. NAGLE, retired Chaplain H.E.I.C.S.

LATEST NEWS.

St. Petersburg, May 8.

The following communication appears in to-day's *Official Messenger* :—

"The *Official Messenger* of the 30th ult. published a Note, relating the circumstances which provoked the conflict between the Russian and Afghan troops on the banks of the Kushk River.

"From this statement it appeared that, in taking action against the Afghans, with a view of forcing them to abandon the right bank of the Kushk, General Komaroff did not place himself in contradiction with the instructions which he had received from the Ministry of War.

"According to these instructions, he was forbidden only to occupy the Penjdeh oasis, where the troops of the Ameer had already taken up their position. He was therefore perfectly right in acting as he did in the affair of March 30th.

"Nevertheless, in consequence of this incident, a disagreement has arisen between the Imperial Government and that of Her Britannic Majesty, as to which of the two Cabinets interpreted the more faithfully the arrangement concluded between them, and in virtue of which, until the solution of the frontier question, no offensive movement was to be undertaken either on our part or that of the Afghans.

"The point was to determine whether the instructions given to General Komaroff were really in conformity with the arrangement in question, or whether, as maintained by the Cabinet of London, the Imperial Government ought to have enjoined the commander of the Russian troops to abstain absolutely from all attack upon the Afghan outposts from the moment when he received the order not to undertake any offensive movement. Neither of the two Cabinets has thought it possible to abandon its particular view on this point.

"For this reason, and in order to avoid the obstacles which impeded the solution of the frontier question, it has been decided that, in case of necessity, the difference of opinion should be referred to the judgment of an arbitrator, who would indicate a mode of solution compatible with the honour and dignity of the two States.

"At the same time the two Governments have agreed to resume the negotiations for determining the frontier on the bases employed up to the present, but with this difference, that the principal points of the frontier line should be fixed by a previous understanding between the Cabinets. The demarcation on the spot of the line of frontier in its details, as well as the placing of the indicating posts, will be reserved for Commissioners, which the two Governments will furnish with powers for this purpose.

"In order to facilitate the work of delimitation, the outposts on both sides will not be required to retire from their present positions until after the arrival of the Commission on the spot, and, as fast as the direction of the frontier line is fixed, the frontier points will be occupied by the troops of the two parties concerned. It will then be the duty of each to maintain order and security in the territories awarded to them respectively."

Calcutta, May 8.

The news of the arrangement with Russia has created a feeling approaching to dismay. The proposed settlement is considered here as being dangerous and humiliating. All accounts from the North-Western Provinces and Afghanistan agree that the Ministerial vacillation is ruining British prestige.

The Ameer arrived at Cabul safely. Ressildar Major Mirza Ataulah Khan Sidar Babadul, of the 10th Bengal Lancers, has been appointed British Envoy to Cabul, vice Colonel Afzul Khan, retired.

Ottawa, May 7.

Lord Melgund, with his scouts, has arrived within three miles of Batoche Crossing. Only six rebels were seen, and these galloped off on the appearance of the scouts. All the houses of the half-breeds were found deserted, the valuables having been removed. A number of horses and cattle were, however, discovered and driven to General Middleton's camp. The General has issued a proclamation offering pardon to all but Riel, the members of his council, and his leading men.

Dongola, May 8.

Reports continue to be received here of defeats sustained by the Mahdi's forces from the Kordofan insurgents and the garrison of Sennaar. In the former case the Mahdites sustained heavy loss; while in the fighting with the Sennaar garrison their guns were captured. The remnant of the Mahdi's forces retreated to Abou Haraz and sent a request for reinforcements to the Mahdi, who replied that he had none available. The Mahdi is stated to be at Omdurman with a few troops.

The *Morning Post* understands that at Thursday's Cabinet Council the Ministers received a despatch from Lord Dufferin, interpreting the action of the Home authorities as a disavowal of his policy, and consequently tendering his resignation. A despatch was forwarded to Lord Dufferin explaining the bad impression which his resignation would produce at the present moment, and the serious difficulties in which the Government would be involved by such a step.

Referring to the contradiction by the *Daily News* regarding the conditions imposed by the Russian Government in resuming negotiations with the English Government, as to the occupation of Port Hamilton and the supplying of arms and ammunition to the Ameer, the *Morning Post* says:—"We have reason to believe that our information, notwithstanding the semi-official contradiction it has received by the Liberal organ, is perfectly correct. The contradiction is as simple as the statement by the same journal, that 'the Russian Government has offered positive assurance that it has no design of taking possession of Herat now or at any future time.'" The *Moscow Gazette*, discussing the question of Port Hamilton, says :—We must thank the English for pointing out to us a place which must in no case be in hostile hands. It is Russia's business now to take decisive measures to prevent the possibility of our being shut up in the Japanese Sea by anyone, as we now are in the Black Sea. The islands of the Corean Straits in the hands of any other Power will always constitute a threat addressed to Russia."

SOCIETY.

A marriage has been arranged between the Earl of Fife and Lady Forbes of Newe, widow of the late Sir Charles Forbes, Bart., and sister of the Countess of Dudley.

Also between Count George Maggiolini, of Her Majesty's Government Service, Ceylon, and second son of Count Maggiolini Scarampi de Mombereli and Belvedere, of Piedmont, Italy, and grandson of the late Mr. Kerrison Harvey, J.P., D.L., of Thorpe, Norfolk, and Miss Olive Mabel Hume Webster, eldest daughter of Mr. Hume Webster, of Chapel-street, Park-lane, and Marden Deer Park, Surrey.

Also between Col. the Hon. Henry Parnell, C.B., late commanding the 2nd Battalion the Buffs, eldest son of Lord Congleton, and Miss Elizabeth Peter Dove, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Dugald Dove and of Mrs Dove, 3, Palace Gate, Kensington, and Eilean Aigas, Inverness-shire.

Also between the Rev. A. C. Radcliffe, vicar of Longfleet, second son of Mr. J. A. Radcliffe, of Cobham, and Miss Katherine Mack, daughter of the late Mr. John Mack, of Pastor Hall, Norfolk.

Earl de Grey, son of the Marquis of Ripon, and Gladys, Countess of Lonsdale, sister of the Earl of Pembroke, were married on Thursday morning last at the parish church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Great pains had been taken to keep the marriage strictly private; in fact, only the nearest relatives of the bride and bridegroom knew when and where it was to take place, consequently not more than twenty persons were present in the church on the occasion, among whom were the Earl and Countess of Pembroke, Baroness von Hügel, and Hon. Sidney and Lady Beatrix Herbert. The bridegroom was accompanied by Mr. E. W. Greenwood as best man; and the Countess was given away by her brother, the Earl of Pembroke. Her Ladyship wore a skirt of bronze green silk, with jacket bodice of stamped velvet of the same colour, and bonnet to match, with yellow aigrette. The Rev. W. G. Humphry, Prebendary of St. Paul's, and vicar of St. Martin's, officiated. The service over, the newly-wedded couple left by a side door, thus disappointing many who were waiting outside the principal entrance to catch a glimpse of the bride as she left. The Earl and Countess de Grey afterwards left for Witley Court, the Earl of Dudley's place in Worcestershire.

A very numerous and distinguished company assembled at St. Mary's Church, Bryanston-square, on Thursday afternoon, to witness the marriage, by special licence, of the Hon. Ronald Leslie Melville, half brother and heir presumptive to the Earl of Leven and Melville, with Emma Selina, eldest daughter of the Hon. William Berkeley Portman, M.P. The ceremony was appointed for two o'clock, but long before that hour the church was crowded to overflowing. Colonel Wynne Finch acted as best man to the bridegroom, and the eight bridesmaids were the Misses Susan and Mary Portman, sisters of the bride; the Misses Ethel and Gertrude Portman, Miss E. Foljambe, and Miss L'Estrange Malone, her cousins; and Miss Kathleen Leslie Melville and Miss Adèle Hamilton, niece and cousin of the bridegroom. They wore dresses of deep cream satin flounced and draped with cream lace, the lace on the bodice being crossed fichu fashion, which had a very pretty effect. They wore lace bonnets to correspond, trimmed with sprays of banksia roses, a bunch of which was fastened at the throat; the four little children wearing close bébé bonnets of lace and satin ribbon to match. Each carried a large basket of lovely flowers, and wore a pearl and coral monogram brooch, the gift of the bridegroom. The bride arrived a few minutes after two o'clock with her father, who conducted her to the chancel, and afterwards gave her away. She wore a very handsome dress of the richest white satin, the front being trimmed with Brussels lace flounces; the bodice had a full coquille of lace down the front, in which sprays of orange flowers were fastened, and the basque was puffed all round. She had a narrow wreath of orange blossoms and a Brussels lace veil, which was attached to the hair by several diamond stars, the gift of Viscount Portman. Her other jewels included a diamond necklace, her father's gift, and a pearl and diamond pendant from the bridegroom. The Hon. Mrs. Portman, mother of the bride, wore an elegant costume of sapphire-blue Sicilienne and broché velvet, trimmed with chenille fringe, with mantle and bonnet *en suite*, the latter being trimmed with blue feathers. The service was choral; the Rev. F. Berkeley Portman officiated, assisted by the Hon. and Rev. Walter Berkeley Portman. After the ceremony the wedding party proceeded to the Hon. W. B. and Mrs. Portman's residence in Portman-square, where between three and four hundred relatives and friends of both families assembled. Between four and five o'clock the Hon. Roland and his bride started, amidst showers of rice, on their way to Lythe Hill, Mr. Stewart Hodgson's seat near Haslemere, where they purpose spending the honeymoon. The bride's travelling dress consisted of a skirt of bronze-green velvet and réséda silk in tiny stripes, the drapery and other portion of the dress being of réséda Sicilienne; mantle and bonnet to match. The wedding presents, which amounted to about four hundred in number, were displayed in the noble ball room of the mansion, and included costly articles of jewellery, plate, and china.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury entertained at dinner at their residence in Arlington-street on Wednesday evening his Excellency the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi, the Duke and Duchess of Richmond and Gordon and Lady C. Gordon Lennox, the Earl and Countess of Lathom and Lady Maud Wilbraham, Lord Zouche, Lady William Compton, Hon. Elward and Mrs. Stanhope, the Right Hon. Sir Stafford and Lady Northcote, Mr. and Lady Margaret Beaumont, Hon. Charles H. Strutt, Hon. Fitzroy Stewart, Mr. J. Bulwer, Mr. J. W. Lowther, and Mr. Bolley. The Marchioness afterwards held a reception, which was well attended. There were present among others the Turkish Ambassador and Mdlle. Musurus, the French Ambassador and Mdme. Waddington, the Netherlands Minister and Countess de Bylandt, the Portuguese Minister and Mdme. d'Antas, the Persian Minister, the Belgian Minister, Hassan Fehmi Pasha, Baron de Plessen, Count Moltke, Count Vitzthum, the Marquis and Marchioness of Bristol, the Marchioness of Tweeddale, and Earl Granville.

THE REVISED BIBLE.

The Dean of Chichester, in again writing to a contemporary on this subject, makes the following remarks:—"It is not the theory of Drs. Westcott and Hort, nor their text either, that we have to deal with, but *the New Greek Text of the Revisionists*. The learned editor of the *Speaker's Commentary* (Canon Cook), and others besides, have examined this Revised Text of theirs argumentatively and laboriously, and have demonstrated its untrustworthy character in a vast number of important places. Moreover, their argumentation and its results have been before the public for the last three and a half years. Up to this hour no serious attempt has been made to refute the terrible charge brought against the Revisers of having persistently falsified the Gospel throughout. But until this is convincingly done it is a mere beating of the air to deal with the solemn issues which are just now at stake in the style adopted by certain of your correspondents. The silence of the Revisers is their surrender.

"There are two distinct points involved in the discussion which may be dismissed with a very few words on either head: the former (1) *The Revised New Testament*; the latter (2) *The Revision of the Old Testament*.

"(1) Against the former, as already explained, such a formidable bill of indictment has been filed as effectually to block its progress. Until the charge in particular of having *systematically depraved the deposit from end to end* has been satisfactorily disposed of, the Revised New Testament must be reckoned among the failures of the past. Its authors are evidently partial to the Russian method of making silent and stealthy advances; trusting to indifference in one quarter and weariness in another for ultimately effecting their purpose. They are assured that their Russian policy will disappoint them.

"(2) The other work is said to be at this instant enclosed in 'large boxes fitted with brass locks,'—to come abroad on the 19th inst., and to be subjected in due time to the ordeal of a searching criticism. We demand for it fair play, requesting that it may be allowed to stand or fall on its own independent merits; and not be prejudiced from the outset by being lashed to what the public already regard as a defunct thing. We call upon the proprietors of the Revised Old Testament to supply the public with copies at the cheapest possible rate, unencumbered with a copy of what we all possess already, and do not wish to hear of any more—namely, the Revised *New* Testament."

The following is from the pen of the Rev. Edward Miller, of Bucknell :—

"Many adherents of the extreme school would have us believe that there is a general *consensus* of opinion. The real fact is that there are at present two rival schools of sacred textual criticism holding antagonistic and strongly-defined principles.

"The strength of one is found in several illustrious names, and in the number of its younger adherents. It is composed of the followers of Lachmann, and it reckons Drs. Westcott and Hort, several others of the New Testament Revisers, inclusive of about two-thirds of the Company, and other eminent scholars. Its cardinal weakness is that in the face of fifteen centuries of acceptation in the Church according to its own view, and of all the eighteen according to the account given by the other school, it rejects more than nine-tenths of the evidence at command. Whether this is logical, wise, and right, I do not stop now to consider. But this admitted fact (*e.g.*, Hort. 91-93, 142, &c.) ought surely to lead Churchmen to withhold their adhesion till the controversy reaches, at least, a further stage.

"The other school includes Dr. Scrivener, allowed to be the first living textual critic; and the remaining third of the Revisers' Company—the Dean of Chichester, who has probably examined more manuscripts than any other man now alive, and who has recently added 374 to the stores hitherto known; Canon Cook, the editor-in-chief of the *Speaker's Commentary*; Dr. J. H. A. Michelsen, in his thoughtful article in the *Theologisch Tijdschrift*; the entire body, if I am not mistaken, of Roman opinion, as represented, for example, by Dr. Ceriani, of Milan, and the Abbé Martin, of Paris; and other scholars. The illustrious commentator (Dr. Wordsworth) whose loss as a Bishop, a theologian, and a scholar we are now deploring, is well known as having belonged to and adorned this school.

"This group of textual critics does not champion the *Textus Receptus*. Such championship exists only in the hasty imputations of their antagonists. No one can repeat more strongly than Mr. Burgon, for instance, that the *Textus Receptus* needs revision, and that the true traditional text—a different thing—is what is maintained in opposition to one which had remained till very recently in comparative oblivion, and, therefore, surely under general condemnation, since the fourth century. This school has a further advantage at present in that the arguments advanced by Dr. Scrivener, the Dean of Chichester, Canon Cook, and others have as yet received no answer.

"Inasmuch, then, as there are these two great contentions, ought not the question, as the Dean of Chichester urges, to be effectually 'blocked,' till after fair and adequate sifting of opposing claims the mind of the Church is made up one way or other?"

Speaking in Convocation on the proposed vote of thanks to the Revisers of the Old Testament, Dr. Bright, Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, observed :—"I think that in our vote of thanks we ought not to assert more than we absolutely know of ourselves. Of course, although we take with entire confidence the information which has been most graciously given to us by our Fathers in God, yet when we take upon ourelves to make certain propositions as to the merits of this Revised Version of the Old Testament we ought to take good care that we are speaking first hand. At present we are not speaking first hand. No one of us, however competent to judge the book from the point of view of accuracy or of caution, can give an opinion upon it, for at present we know nothing whatever about the contents or merits of the book except from the information which we have received from the Bishops who have addressed us. In our vote of thanks we ought to confine ourselves to what we do know—namely, the patience, the labour, and the diligence, which are, of course, matters as to which we may be quite sure, and we should not go into matters as to which we cannot by any possibility speak of our own knowledge."

The Prolocutor quite felt the importance of what had fallen from Canon Bright. The House must not commit themselves in any way whatsoever to a judgment about a version which, it was perfectly clear, they had had no means whatever of examining. They believed that the revisers had been cautious, but whether the result had been satisfactory was, of course, a question which the House had no means of answering.

Canon Bright said the House was not in a position to say that the work had been done with careful learning. He objected to their affirming what they did not know. He held that the words "careful learning" be omitted.

Canon Gregory ultimately framed a resolution to avoid the difficulty which had been pointed out.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prize, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The present monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 4.
(Second Month, Tenth Year.)

1. M allo W
2. A ustrali A
3. Y ea R

Light 1.—Tennyson's "The Brook." Light 2.—"Advance, Australia!" Light 3.—Paradise Lost.

Answers have been received from Godiva, Asphodel, Chelmsford, Beam, Etak, The Owl, Katydid, M.A.E.B., Land o' Nod, Ketha, James Crow, Spero, Hampton Courtier, Paddy, Pansy, Two Countesses, Pegasus, Iris, Conjecture, Kildale, G.C.H., Evelina, Sleepy, Felix, Hadji, Peewit, Sociable, and Waddles.

First Monthly Ties.—Beam, Persevere, and Todcat have all solved correctly Acrostic No. 4.

SECOND MONTHLY LIST.

1. Roslyn, Waddles, Chelmsford, Quill Pen, Two Countesses, Pen, Viz, Noremac, Sarnia, Zulus, Evelina, Pupdog-wow, Zyx, and Sleepy.
2. Kildale, Land o' Nod, Ketha, Godiva, Katydid, Pansy, Hadji, Sociable, Asphodel, Etak, Conjecture, Iris, Pegasus, G.C.H., and Paddy.
3. Spero, M.A.E.B., Hampton Courtier, and Peewit.
4. James Crow and Felix.

James Crow and Felix have thus tied for the April prize, and will proceed with the competition until the tie is decided.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 2.
(Third Month, Tenth Year.)

Prem.

At any price it may be bought.
At this!—'twere better to have fought!

1.

As Lutetia of old 'twas known to fame,
Laetitia now might well be its name.

2.

The swan-necked girl over the dead king hung,
With grief that from the victors pity wrung.

3.

Sea-king's daughter from over the sea,
Queen of all hearts and a queen to be.

4.

Its placid course through lowlands sweeps,
Its name the lordly city keeps.

5.

Mother of men for whom men boar,
Burden of sin that all must share.

A LOVER'S LAMENT.

W. E. G., *loquitur*.

"Fors omnia versat."—Virg.

Russia, noster amor, quæ te dementia cepit?
Immemor officii tu potes esse mei?
Eheu! quam durum est tibi dicere "Russia mendax!"
'Perfida, sed quam vis perfida, cara tamen!'
Ah! Nemesis rerum! vitæ fortuna maligna!
In te bella paro pacis amansque tui!

W. P. A.

In the House of Commons last night, Mr. Gladstone announced that on Thursday he proposed to introduce the resolution which is necessary as the foundation of a Bill for making the usual provision in conformity with precedent for her Royal Highness the Princess Beatrice on the occasion of her marriage.

The first report of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes, signed by all the members, including the Prince of Wales, was issued on Thursday. Several members—notably Lord Salisbury, Mr. Goschen, and Sir Richard Cross—have appended their signatures subject to reservations contained in supplementary memoranda, which are also published.

British pilots are serious-thinking men. By their special request the Rev. R. B. Boyer, M.A., Superintendent of the Missions to Seamen, opened last week the second annual Conference of the United Kingdom Pilots' Association with prayer. On the second day of meeting the clergyman invited to officiate was not present, so one of the pilots took his duty. The object of the Association is to promote efficient pilotage by removing discouragements to service as pilots, and to assist the disestablishment of their calling with which Parliament was invited to visit them. Their dinner was graced by the presence of Lord Brabourne, and by several Members of Parliament who espouse their cause for the public good.

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